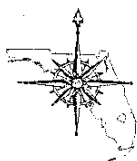


Ent D (FMSF only) 1/1/03

# Survey Log Sheet

Florida Master Site File  
Version 2.0 9/97

Survey # (FMSF only) 15408Consult *Guide to the Survey Log Sheet* for detailed instructions.

## Identification and Bibliographic Information

Survey Project (Name and project phase) Data Recovery/Mitigation of Northern Portion of 8SJ62NRReport Title (exactly as on title page) ARCHAEOLOGICAL IN FISH PLANTATION, St. Johns County SBReport Author(s) (as on title page — individual or corporate; last names first) Smith, Greg C., Handley, Brent M., and Sidney Johnston SBPublication Date (year) 2004 Total Number of Pages in Report (Count text, figures, tables, not site forms) 135Publication Information (If relevant, series and no. in series, publisher, and city. For article or chapter, cite page numbers. Use the style of *American Antiquity*; see *Guide to the Survey Log Sheet*.) ESI Report of Investigations No. 502Supervisor(s) of Fieldwork (whether or not the same as author(s); last name first) Handley, Brent M.Affiliation of Fieldworkers (organization, city) ESI, Jacksonville, FloridaKey Words/Phrases (Don't use the county, or common words like *archaeology*, *structure*, *survey*, *architecture*. Put the most important first. Limit each word or phrase to 25 characters.) Fish Plantation, Fish Island, British Period, Second Spanish Period

Survey Sponsors (corporation, government unit, or person who is directly paying for fieldwork)

Name Environmental Services, Inc.Address/Phone 7220 Financial Way, Suite 100, Jacksonville FLA 32256 (904) 470-2200Recorder of Log Sheet Handley, Brent M.Date Log Sheet Completed 5/7/04Is this survey or project a continuation of a previous project? ☐ No ☒ Yes: Previous survey #(s) (FMSF only) 09396 SB

## Mapping

Counties (List each one in which field survey was done - do not abbreviate; use supplement sheet if necessary) St. JohnsUSGS 1:24,000 Map(s) : Map Name/Date of Latest Revision (use supplement sheet if necessary): St. Augustine Beach (1993)

## Description of Survey Area

Dates for Fieldwork: Start 7/1/03 End 12/1/03 Total Area Surveyed (fill in one) \_\_\_\_\_ hectares \_\_\_\_\_ acresNumber of Distinct Tracts or Areas Surveyed 1

If Corridor (fill in one for each): Width \_\_\_\_\_ meters \_\_\_\_\_ feet Length \_\_\_\_\_ kilometers \_\_\_\_\_ miles

## Survey Log Sheet of the Florida Master Site File

## Research and Field Methods

Types of Survey (check all that apply): ☒ archaeological ☐ architectural ☐ historical/archival ☐ underwater ☐ other: \_\_\_\_\_

Preliminary Methods (Check as many as apply to the project as a whole. If needed write others at bottom).

- ☐ Florida Archives (Gray Building) ☒ library research- local public ☐ local property or tax records ☐ windshield  
☐ Florida Photo Archives (Gray Building) ☒ library-special collection - nonlocal ☐ newspaper files ☒ aerial photography  
☒ FMSF site property search ☐ Public Lands Survey (maps at DEP) ☒ literature search  
☒ FMSF survey search ☒ local informant(s) ☐ Sanborn Insurance maps  
☐ other (describe) \_\_\_\_\_

Archaeological Methods (Describe the proportion of properties at which method was used by writing in the corresponding letter. Blanks are interpreted as "None.")  
 F(-ew: 0-20%), S(-ome: 20-50%); M(-ost: 50-90%); or A(-ll, Nearly all: 90-100%). If needed write others at bottom.

☐ Check here if NO archaeological methods were used.

- ☐ surface collection, controlled ☐ other screen shovel test (size: \_\_\_\_\_) ☐ block excavation (at least 2x2 M)  
☒ surface collection, uncontrolled ☐ water screen (finest size: \_\_\_\_\_) ☐ soil resistivity  
☒ shovel test-1/4" screen ☐ posthole tests ☐ magnetometer  
☐ shovel test-1/8" screen ☐ auger (size: \_\_\_\_\_) ☐ side scan sonar  
☐ shovel test 1/16" screen ☐ coring ☐ unknown  
☐ shovel test-unscreened ☒ M test excavation (at least 1x2 M)  
☒ M other (describe): **Machine assisted excavation**

Historical/Architectural Methods (Describe the proportion of properties at which method was used by writing in the corresponding letter. Blanks are interpreted as "None.")

F(-ew: 0-20%), S(-ome: 20-50%); M(-ost: 50-90%); or A(-ll, Nearly all: 90-100%). If needed write others at bottom.

☐ Check here if NO historical/architectural methods were used.

- ☐ building permits ☐ demolition permits ☒ A neighbor interview ☐ subdivision maps  
☐ commercial permits ☒ A exposed ground inspected ☐ occupant interview ☐ tax records  
☐ interior documentation ☒ A local property records ☐ occupation permits ☐ unknown  
☒ A other (describe): **Historic maps**

Scope/Intensity/Procedures **16 square meters of formal unit excavation and machine stripping of the northern portion of 8SJ62NR, north of the plantation house remnants.**

## Survey Results (cultural resources recorded)

Site Significance Evaluated? ☒ Yes ☐ No If Yes, circle NR-eligible/significant site numbers below.

Site Counts: Previously Recorded Sites 1 Newly Recorded Sites 0

Previously Recorded Site #'s (List site #'s without "8." Attach supplementary pages if necessary) SJ62

Newly Recorded Site #'s (Are you sure all are originals and not updates? Identify methods used to check for updates, ie, researched the FMSF records.  
 List site #'s without "8." Attach supplementary pages if necessary.)

Site Form Used: ☐ SmartForm ☒ FMSF Paper Form ☐ Approved Custom Form: Attach copies of written approval from FMSF Supervisor.

## DO NOT USE -----SITE FILE USE ONLY-----DO NOT USE

## BAR Related

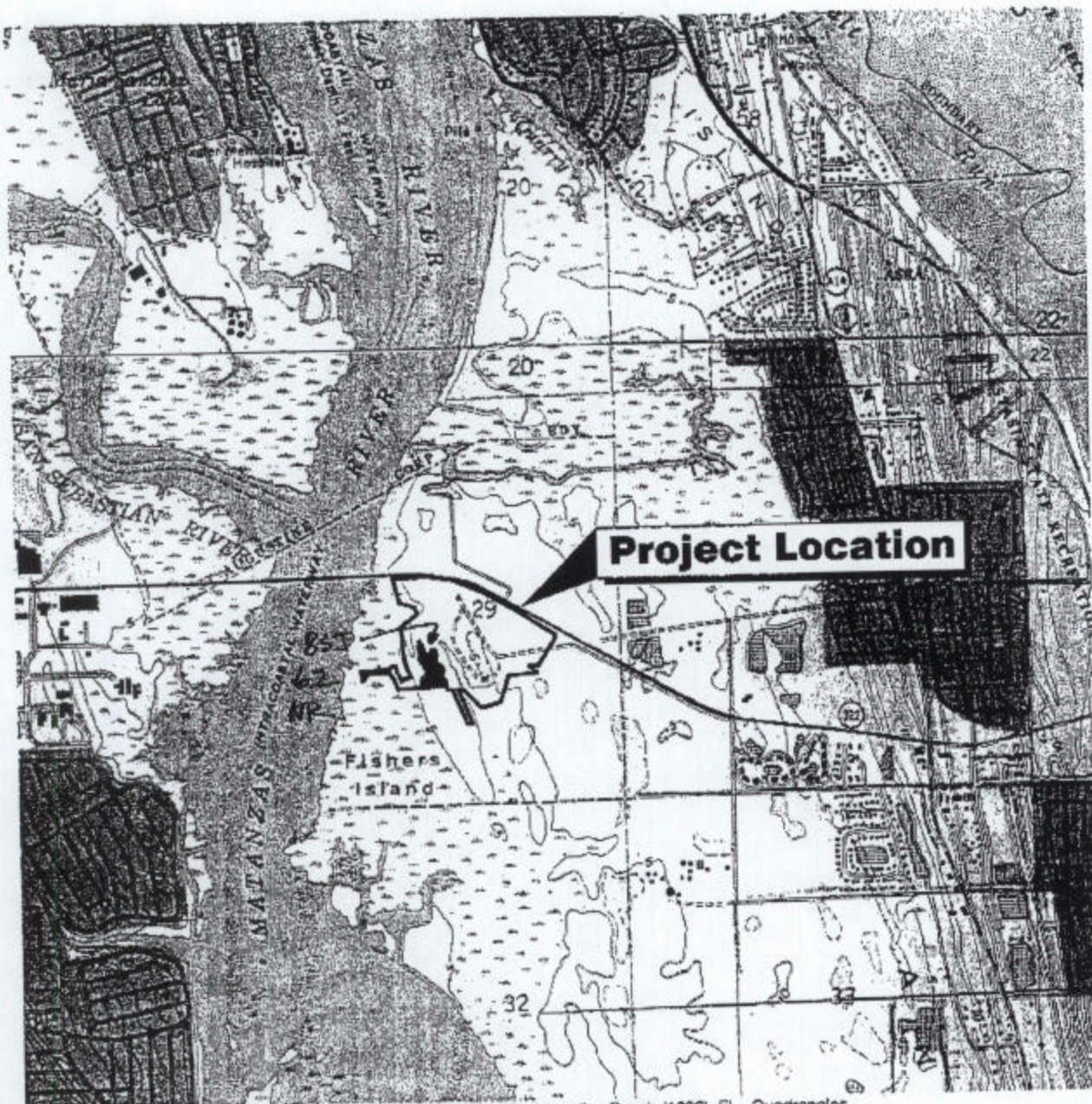
- ☐ 872 ☐ 1A32  
☐ CARL ☐ UW

## BHP Related

- ☐ State Historic Preservation Grant  
☒ Compliance Review: CRAT # 2004-4284

**ATTACH PLOT OF SURVEY AREA ON PHOTOCOPIES OF USGS 1:24,000 MAP(S)**





Source: U.S.G.S. Topographical Survey, St. Augustine (1988) and St. Augustine Beach (1992), FL... Quadrangles.  
Scale: 1"=2000'



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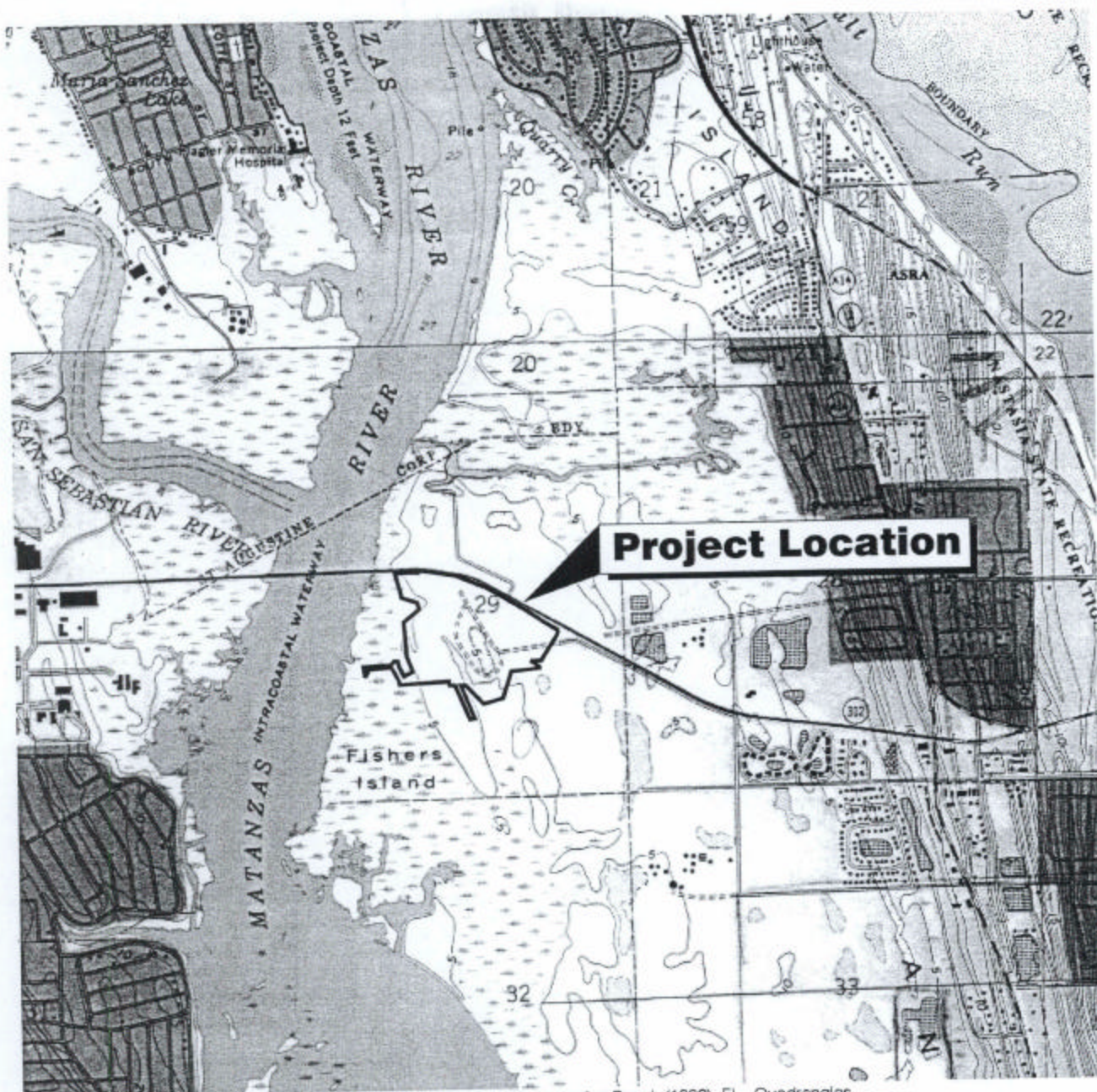
Project Location Map  
**Fish Island**  
St. Johns County, Florida

Figure: 1.1

Project: EJ00303.03

Date: May 2004





Source: U.S.G.S. Topographical Survey, St. Augustine (1988) and St. Augustine Beach (1992), FL., Quadrangles.  
 Scale: 1"=2000'



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Project Location Map  
**Fish Island**  
 St. Johns County, Florida

Figure: 1.1

Project: EJ00303.03

Date: May 2004





FLORIDA DEPARTMENT OF STATE  
**Glenda E. Hood**  
Secretary of State  
DIVISION OF HISTORICAL RESOURCES

Mr. Greg C. Smith, Ph.D.  
Environmental Services, Inc.  
7220 Financial Way, Suite 100  
Jacksonville, Florida 32256

August 20, 2004

Re: DHR No. 2004-4284 (2003-6197)  
Received by DHR: May 12, 2004  
*Archaeological Data Recovery in the Northern Portion of 8SJ62NR – Fish Island Plantation  
St. Johns County, Florida*

Dear Dr. Smith:

Our office received the referenced survey report in accordance with procedures outlined in the St. Augustine historic preservation ordinance; Chapter 267, *Florida Statutes*, and 1A-46, *Florida Administrative Code*; as well as Section 106 of the *National Historic Preservation Act of 1966*, as amended, and 36 *C.F.R., Part 800*.

It is the opinion of Environmental Services, Inc. that the data recovery investigations undertaken are sufficient to mitigate adverse effects, resulting from the construction of a road and associated elements as indicated in the Fish Island development plan, to the historic well and the historic midden (that portion of the midden that extends into the "project location") associated with the Fish Plantation site, 8SJ62, listed in the *National Register of Historic Places* in 1972. Based on the documentation provided, this office concurs with this determination, however, with a minor exception regarding site forms.

Florida Master Site File forms should be completed and forwarded to the Review and Compliance Section for the following properties: coquina blockhouse ruins, wharf, channel, coquina block well, and the second well. If the historic midden is considered the same site as the Fish Plantation, 8SJ62, the updated form provided is sufficient, however, if otherwise, please provide a separate site form for the midden. In addition, a resource group form including 8SJ62, the coquina blockhouse ruins, wharf, channel, coquina block well, and the second well should be completed and forwarded. If the historic midden is considered the same site as Fish Plantation, 8SJ62, the updated form provided is sufficient, otherwise a separate form should be completed. At such time that the requested forms are received, the referenced investigative report and findings will be found complete and sufficient.

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☐ St. Augustine Regional Office  
(904) 825-5045 • FAX: 825-5044

☐ Tampa Regional Office  
(813) 272-3843 • FAX: 272-2340

Dr. Greg C. Smith  
August 20, 2004  
Page 2

It is the opinion of this office that the proposed development will have an adverse effect on the Fish Plantation National Register listed property. The integrity of setting and feeling of a "plantation" site with its associated features and lands will be significantly altered by the proposed near by encroachment of development, as depicted on page 117 of the referenced report. Therefore, we strongly suggest that a Historic Marker be erected on State Road 312 near the Fish Plantation site. If permanent preservation of the historic wharf and associated channel, coquina blockhouse and well is not addressed in future development plans and property deeds, further mitigation measures may be requested

If you have any questions concerning our comments, please contact Laura Kammerer, Deputy State Historic Preservation Officer for Review and Compliance, at (850) 245-6333.

Sincerely,

*for* *Laura K. Kammerer, Deputy SHPO*  
Frederick P. Gaske, Director, and  
State Historic Preservation Officer

Xc: Carl Halbirt, City of St. Augustine



15408

**ARCHAEOLOGICAL DATA RECOVERY  
IN THE NORTHERN PORTION OF 8SJ62NR  
FISH ISLAND PLANTATION  
ST. JOHNS COUNTY, FLORIDA**

**By**

**Greg C. Smith  
Brent M. Handley  
Sidney P. Johnston**

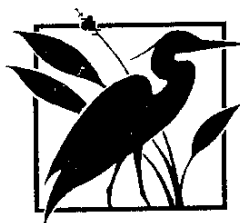
**For**

**Young Land Group, Inc.  
9471 Baymeadows Road, Suite 402  
Jacksonville, Florida 32256**

**ESI Report of Investigations No. 502**

**EJ00313.03**

**May 2004**



**ENVIRONMENTAL SERVICES, INC.  
7220 Financial Way, Suite 100  
Jacksonville, Florida 32256  
904-470-2200**

**CRAT # 2004 - 4284**

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## **I. INTRODUCTION AND BACKGROUND**

From July through December 2003, Environmental Services Inc. (ESI) of Jacksonville, Florida conducted data recovery and mitigation in the northern portion of Fish Island in St. Johns County, Florida (Figure 1.1). The property contains remains associated with the Jesse Fish Plantation (8SJ62NR), as documented during previous investigations (White and Halbirt 2001; Smith et al. 2003a, 2003b). The work documented herein is designed to complete the investigation of the northern portion of the site and facilitate the placement of a road segment.

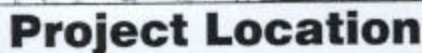
The Jesse Fish Plantation site (8SJ62NR) was first investigated by the City of St. Augustine (White and Halbirt 2001). This National Register listed site was found to include the plantation house and "blockhouse" foundations, a well, and two tombs, in addition to a wharf and channel system. The wharf is in the northwestern portion of the Island directly south of the SR 312 Bridge, while the channels are located along the western and eastern edges of the Island. These features will not be impacted by the proposed project. The central portion of Fish Island, where the house and blockhouse are located, is being preserved in a protected outparcel under separate ownership (White and Halbirt 2001). Presently, no immediate plans exist for the portion of site 8SJ62NR that lies south of the preservation area, although there have been discussions about mitigation work in that area in the future. Further coordination with DHR would be necessary to develop a Scope of Work that would meet Section 106 requirements when those plans develop.

The present data recovery followed an earlier survey by ESI (Smith et al. 2003a) that encountered a well and portions of an intact occupational midden dating to the late 18<sup>th</sup> and 19<sup>th</sup> centuries. That survey report recommended mitigation of the well and midden area, in addition to documentation of a wharf and channel associated with the plantation. Concurrence with these recommendations was received in a letter from SHPO dated August 13, 2003 (DHR Project No. 2003-6197). This report documents the mitigation of the northern portion of 8SJ62NR and fulfills the specifications of a Scope of Work previously submitted to SHPO and approved by as part of an addendum to the original survey report (Smith et al. 2003b).

### **Environmental Setting**

The project area lies in the Eastern Flatwoods physiographic district of Florida, which has been shaped to a large extent by deposition and erosion caused by fluctuations in Pleistocene and Holocene era sea levels. More specifically, the tract occurs in the St. Augustine-Edgewater Ridge subdivision of the Central Atlantic Coastal Strip (Brooks 1981). For the most part, this area consists of a coquina ridge that originated or was modified during the Pleistocene. The swales in this zone contain cypress stands and the low ridges are covered by flatwoods. Elevations in the project area range from 2 to 4 meters above mean sea level (AMSL).

The project tract is located immediately east of the Matanzas River – the major hydrological feature in the area. The Matanzas River is a tidal, intracoastal waterway with its inlet located approximately two miles north of the project area. It meanders roughly 20 miles south where it meets the Atlantic Ocean north of Marineland. Prior to modern channel modifications and urbanization, the estuary supported abundant tidewater fauna, marked archaeologically by marine shell middens along its banks. The soils of the project area range from moderately well



ENVIRONMENTAL  
SERVICES, INC.

Project Location Map  
**Fish Island**  
St. Johns County, Florida

Figure: 1.1

Project: EJ00303.03

Date: May 2004



drained in the southeast to frequently flooded in low shoreline and wetland locations. In contrast to USDA maps, previous field testing (Smith et al. 2003a) indicated that relatively well-drained soils are intermittent throughout portions of the tract.

Today the tract is mostly wooded, though some areas are cleared and exhibit modern impacts. Uplands in the project area are comprised of xeric oak, cedar, and pine flatwoods communities. Low elevation areas comprise wetland hardwood forests adjacent to marsh areas and the various tributaries of the Matanzas River. The wetland hardwood forests comprise a somewhat homogenous mixture of canopy and sub-canopy species.

### **Regional Culture History**

The following overview of northeastern Florida serves as a framework for understanding human land use in the project vicinity. The chronology for northeast Florida was first summarized by Goggin (1952), later by Milanich and Fairbanks (1980), and most recently by Milanich (1994). According to the regional classification of Milanich (1994:244), the project tract lies within the East and Central District of Florida. It is characterized by a four-part chronology, with each period based on distinct cultural and technological characteristics recognized by archaeologists.

From oldest to most recent, the four prehistoric periods include Paleoindian, Archaic, Woodland, and Mississippian. Cultural periods are presented chronologically in Table 1. The dominant prehistoric presence in the project area relates to the St. Johns period, as discussed more fully below. General developments during the historic period are also discussed, followed by a discussion of previous archaeological work on Fish Island. The results of historic background research specific to Fish Island Plantation are given in Chapter 2.

#### St. Johns I and II Periods

The St. Johns tradition is most noticeable in archaeological assemblages by a chalky pottery containing fossil sponge spicules (cf. Borremans and Shaak 1986). The St. Johns way of life seems to have developed out of the previous Orange culture, as evidenced by St. Johns chalky wares with designs similar to those on Orange incised pottery (Bullen 1972; Milanich and Fairbanks 1980; Russo 1992). The post-Archaic period witnessed an increase in population and settlement numbers compared to earlier times. Cultural traits of the St. Johns period included the construction of burial mounds; a continued reliance on coastal resources; the appearance of new ceramics styles; and the reputed rise in plant cultivation (Milanich and Fairbanks 1980:157). Contact with other Indian groups, both within and beyond Florida helped to shape St. Johns culture.

The St. Johns tradition is divided into two major periods, St. Johns I and II, which are further subdivided on the basis of observable changes in material culture (Goggin 1952:40; Milanich and Fairbanks 1980:148). Pottery of the St. Johns I period, 500 B.C. to A.D. 100, is mostly St. Johns Plain, but also includes some St. Johns Incised and Deptford series ceramics. The St. Johns Ia period, A.D. 100-500, is distinguished by the common occurrence of Dunns Creek Red pottery along with St. Johns Plain. Trade wares indicative of this period include Deptford and Swift Creek types. The St. Johns Ib period, A.D. 500-800, is characterized by the predominance of St. Johns Plain in village areas or middens and Dunns Creek Red and Weeden Island types in burial mounds

**Table 1.1: Prehistory of Northeast Florida (adapted from Milanich 1994)**

<b>CULTURAL PERIOD</b>	<b>TEMPORAL PLACEMENT</b>
<b>PALEOINDIAN</b>	<b>12,000 - 8,000 B.C.</b>
<b>ARCHAIC</b> Early Middle Late Orange	<b>8,000 - 5,000 B.C.</b> <b>5,000 - 3,000 B.C.</b> <b>3,000 - 500 B.C.</b> <b>2,000 - 500 B.C.</b>
<b>WOODLAND</b> Deptford Swift Creek St. Johns I	<b>500 B.C. - A.D. 750</b>
<b>MISSISSIPPIAN</b> St. Johns II	<b>A.D. 750 - 1565+</b>
<b>HISTORIC</b>	<b>A.D. 1565 - Present</b>

(Milanich and Fairbanks 1980). However, pure St. Johns I sites as defined in the St. Johns heartland are lacking near the mouth of the St. Johns River. In fact, no St. Johns I villages locally have been excavated to date (Goggin 1952:47; Russo 1992:115).

The St. Johns IIa period began around AD 750, and is recognized by the introduction of check stamping on St. Johns chalky wares. As with the preceding period, coastal sites are characterized by diffuse shell middens composed mostly of oyster, although large mounds of shell refuse are common along the Atlantic coast (Goggin 1952; Milanich 1994). Subsistence activities characteristic of St. Johns I continue into the St. Johns II, with emphasis on the capture of estuarine fish and shellfish along the coast and freshwater species along the inland rivers and lakes (Milanich 1994:265-268; Russo 1992). Plant foods were also an integral part of the St. Johns diet, although specifics regarding the species gathered and/or grown are lacking. Early French and Spanish documents claim that beans, squash, and maize were heavily cultivated throughout the southeastern United States at the time of contact (Bennett 1968:44; B. Smith 1986:45). Direct evidence of cultigens, however, is rare for the St. Johns (or St. Marys) region, except in protohistoric Indian and mission contexts (e.g., Newsom 1986; Purdy 1990). Indirect data supportive of prehistoric maize cultivation occurs in the form of cob-marked ceramics (Milanich and Fairbanks 1980:159). The exterior surface of these wares is thought to have been malleated or scraped with a dried corncob.

The St. Johns IIb period began about AD 1050 and is considered by archaeologists as the apex of socio-political organization in northeast Florida prehistory (Milanich 1994:247). Sand burial mounds increased in use, some being quite large and ceremonially complex, including truncated pyramidal mounds with ramps or causeways leading up to their summits. The rise in the number of St. Johns village and mound sites implies at least some form of local quasi-chieftdom organization (Thunen and Ashley 1995). Along the north Georgia coast, within the Savannah culture heartland, evidence suggests change from bands to chieftdom level sociopolitical organization occurred, with the later societies constructing both platform and burial mounds (Crook 1986:36-37). Mortuary mounds investigated in northeast Florida have yet to be credited to Savannah peoples by archaeologists (Vernon 1984:117; Russo 1992:118).

Subsistence activities characteristic of the local St. Johns II period are similar to those of the earlier Woodland period, with emphasis on the capture of estuarine fish and shellfish (Russo 1992:118). Zooarchaeological evidence from local sites indicate that fish species such as Atlantic croaker, mullet, silver perch, catfish, sheepshead, sea trout, flounder, and drum were taken from the marshes and shallow tidal sloughs. There is no present evidence suggestive of a deep-water or ocean fishing economy. Oyster was by far the most intensively collected shellfish species, but quahog clam, Atlantic ribbed mussel, stout tagelus, and whelk were also collected and eaten. Deer, raccoon, opossum, and other mammals were hunted or trapped, but terrestrial fauna were not exploited to the extent that aquatic animals were.

Researchers have long speculated that there was an increased dependence on horticulture in the St. Johns region during the Mississippian period, based on early French and Spanish documents that claim beans, squash, and maize were heavily cultivated throughout the southeastern United States at the time of European arrival (Bennett 1968:44; Smith 1986:45). Direct evidence of cultigens, however, has not been recovered at prehistoric St. Johns II sites in either the St. Marys or St. Johns regions up to the present time.

In northeastern Florida, the St. Johns II period represents the apex of sociopolitical organization. Excavation of the Shields (8DU12) and Grant (8DU14) mounds by C. B. Moore (1894, 1895) yielded human burials, copper plates, copper beads, galena, various and many ground stone implements, and numerous ceramic vessels (Moore 1894; 1895). In addition, two copper long-nosed god maskettes were recovered from the Grant Mound, embodying southern cult paraphernalia thought to signify elite burials that predate A.D. 1200 (Goggin 1952; Moore 1895; Williams and Goggin 1956). The Shields and Grant mounds are located less than one kilometer apart and together appear to represent the seat of a regional St. Johns II polity that thrived between A.D. 900 and 1100, based on current radiocarbon dates (Ashley 2000a; Thunen and Ashley 1995:5-8).

The St. Johns II communities of northeastern Florida were not insular coastal entities but rather active participants in far-flung exchange networks that brought exotic raw materials and finished products to the area. The primary export may have been whelk shells. It is conceivable that northeastern Florida natives benefited from the demand for whelk shells among southeastern native elites during the early Mississippian period.

### Contact and Mission Periods

At the time of Spanish contact (1565), the natives who inhabited northeast Florida were of the Eastern Timucua groups who collectively inhabited the Atlantic seaboard from central Florida north to the Altamaha River, Georgia (Swanton 1922; Goggin 1952; Deagan 1978; Hann 1996). One of the main Timucua settlements at contact was Seloy, a village frequently cited in early Spanish accounts (Solis de Meras 1964; Barrientos 1965; Lyon 1976).

When St. Augustine was founded in 1565 under the leadership of Pedro Menendez de Aviles, the Spanish found shelter with the Timucua Indians in the village of Chief Seloy on the mainland near St. Augustine Inlet (Lyon 1976:). Menendez had hopes of organizing Spanish municipal settlements throughout La Florida that were to be maintained through agriculture and commercial enterprise (Lyon 1976), while attempts were also made to convert the native population to Christianity through missionization (Gannon 1965).

Soon after Spanish contact in 1565, Jesuit and Franciscan friars established a series of Catholic missions along the Atlantic coast and in the interior of Florida, resulting in over a century of sustained Spanish-Indian interaction (Gannon 1965). During this time, the Timucua, Guale, and other native coastal groups had to accommodate their lifestyle to a swiftly changing physical and cultural environment (Dobyns 1983). During the Spanish Mission period, introduced European diseases and fatal conflict decimated the native population. Groups were frequently relocated and consolidated to facilitate missionization and the exploitation of their labor by the Spaniards.

By the late 16th century, nonlocal Timucua (Mocama) and Guale Indians began to infiltrate north Florida. Such movement is evidenced by the presence of San Pedro pottery (Ashley and Rolland 1997), a distinctive grog tempered aboriginal ware found on sites in Duval and St. Johns counties (Merritt 1977, 1983; Chaney 1987; Bond 1993, 1996). San Pedro pottery is thought to have been produced by historic Timucua-speaking groups who inhabited the San Pedro mission district, with the mission itself (San Pedro de Mocama) located on present-day Cumberland Island, Georgia (Milanich 1971, 1972). The distribution of San Pedro pottery at sites along the Atlantic coast of northeastern Florida and southeastern Georgia seems to reflect movements of historic Timucua groups between the San Pedro mission district and the main Spanish settlement at St. Augustine during the late 16th and 17th centuries (Ashley and Rolland 1997).

Another nonlocal aboriginal group to immigrate to northeast Florida after European contact was the Guale Indians, a Muskogean group who occupied the coastal strand of northern Georgia during the late prehistoric period (Deagan 1978; Larson 1978). The historic Guale are represented archaeologically by San Marcos pottery, a grit tempered ware that is plain, stamped, and, less frequently, incised (Otto and Lewis 1974; Larson 1978; Saunders 1992). The southward movement of Guale groups began slowly in the late 16th century, although the southern extent of the Guale mission chain remained farther to the north near St. Simons Island, Georgia in 1606 (Hann 1987, 1996; Worth 1995). By the late 17th century Guale mission settlements had been relocated to Amelia Island in northeastern Florida. During the 17th and continuing into the 18th century, Guale settlements near St. Augustine were generally ephemeral and prone to frequent relocation and consolidation (Hann 1989). By the late 17th century, Guale was the dominant Indian identity in St. Augustine replacing the indigenous Timucuan population (Deagan 1983; Merritt 1983).



## British Florida

In 1764 Great Britain gained control of the Florida peninsula when Spain relinquished the province as part of treaty negotiations ending the Seven Years War, known better in the U.S. as the French and Indian War (1756-1763). Spanish colonists and their Native-American allies evacuated en masse. Most of the former Floridians moved to Cuba, while a few went to Mexico (Gannon, ed. 1996, 136; Gold 1961:29-54).

Great Britain emerged from the war as the world's most powerful empire. In Florida, unlike during the recently terminated centuries of Spanish rule, the British did not have to concern themselves with hostilities and attacks from nearby enemy colonies; the entire Atlantic coast of North America was in British possession after 1763. With Florida, Great Britain acquired a colony that had been emptied of rival inhabitants of European origin. The remaining Native Americans and escaped Africans did not qualify as settler material in the eyes of the British.

With the Proclamation of 1763, British administrators split the former Spanish colony into East and West Florida at the Apalachicola River. The Proclamation of 1763 assigned Native Americans to lands west of the Appalachians in the colonies north of Florida. A 1765 agreement between the Native Americans in Florida and the new British government in East Florida relegated Native activity to the west side of the St. Johns River, in a manner similar to the Proclamation of 1763. Migrating Creek groups of Native Americans had begun moving into Spanish Florida about 1715 and by the time of the arrival of the British, these groups were known as Seminoles. They were the Native American participants in the 1765 agreement (Gannon, ed. 1996:187-89).

The new British owners hoped to turn the Florida peninsula into a land of profitable plantations. Entrepreneurs in the British Isles devised exotic schemes toward that end. Indigo and rice were crops that were particularly favored at the time. Surveyors and publicists visited Florida to encourage land sales on the Home Island and subsequent development. A proclamation provided for township grants of up to 20,000 acres or for family grants that were apportioned according to family size.

In the early 1780s refugees loyal to Great Britain fled to British Florida from the rebelling colonies of South Carolina and Georgia as American Revolutionary troops ousted British troops from the southern colonies. Historian Leitch Wright thought that half of the 12,000 refugees were slaves brought by their fleeing owners. A community of Loyalist refugees sprang up at St. Johns Bluff, and at least 200 substantial houses appeared at the community, called St. Johns Town (Wright 1975:126). With this new population, the old Spanish road from the bluff to St. Augustine probably saw increased traffic and communication with the capital at St. Augustine.

Spain's support of the American revolutionaries was re-paid at the peace talks in 1782 with the restoration of the Floridas to the Spanish empire. This time it was the British who would evacuate, although quite a few British subjects chose to remain in now-Spanish East Florida. The majority chose to relocate to other parts of the British Empire. Many of the migrants had only resided in Florida for a short time. In July 1784 a Spanish governor once again took command of the Florida peninsula.

## Post Colonial Development in St. Johns County

The Spanish colony of East Florida and a portion of what had been Spanish West Florida became a single United States territory in 1821. With the arrival of U.S. law and control in Florida, white citizens were eager to acquire lands that became available under American hegemony. Like the rest of the nation, residents of the new Florida territory wanted transportation systems to abet the delivery to market of products grown on their newly acquired lands. Because of several Presidential vetoes of legislation to create a federally funded transportation system, responsibility to create and finance internal improvements devolved to the states rather than being assumed by the federal government. The Florida Territory, however, benefited from its status as a territory because it could rely on Congress for government monies, which often funded improvements in Florida.

The Territorial Legislature created St. Johns County and assigned St. Augustine as the seat of government. Small riverside settlements appeared along the St. Johns River, and at Toco the St. Johns Railway was completed into St. Augustine in 1859. During the Civil War, Union troops occupied St. Augustine, and gunboats patrolled the St. Johns River. Following the war, new settlements with churches and schools appeared in rural areas.

In the 1880s, as St. Augustine experienced significant growth upon the arrival of Henry Flagler, some population gains were made in coastal, river, and interior regions of the county. The introduction of railroad lines helped spur growth in the rural villages of Elkton, Hastings, and Spuds. River settlements at Fruit Cove, Orangedale, Picolata, Racy Point, Remington Park, Riverdale, and Switzerland also experienced slow, steady growth. A few wealthy seasonal visitors developed river estates, and others fashioned seaside resorts at Crescent Beach and Summer Haven. Many settlers planted citrus until hard freezes in the mid-1890s pushed Florida's citrus belt farther south.

African-American settlers formed communities at Armstrong, Elkton, and Hastings. Designated as New Augustine, a large ethnic community emerged west of St. Augustine, and soon became known as West Augustine. By 1910, over thirteen thousand people resided in the county, with nearly five thousand of those spread throughout the villages and settlements of the unincorporated county. Land owners and developers platted numerous subdivisions during the 1920s land boom, but the county retained much of its rural character.

In 1930s, turpentine and naval stores, long a significant part of Florida's economy, contributed to the county's economy. Ponte Vedra Beach emerged as an exclusive seaside village in the Great Depression, when most other communities continued to depend on agriculture. The opening of the Intracoastal Waterway opened new home sites in Palm Valley. During World War II several grass runways, referred to in military parlance as outlying fields, supported Navy pilots training at naval air stations at Green Cove Springs and Jacksonville. In cooperation with rural landowners and timber companies, the Florida Forest Service began installing fire watchtowers in heavily forested St. Johns County in the late-1940s. Development since World War II has increased with each passing decade.

### **Previous Archaeological Work at Fish Island Plantation (8SJ62NR)**

The history and significance of the archaeological remains on Fish Island were formally recognized when the property was listed in the *National Register of Historic Places* in 1971. The Jesse Fish Plantation site (8SJ62NR) was recently investigated by the City of St. Augustine (White and Halbirt 2001). The project included an archaeological examination of 35 acres of land south of State Road 312 and a 12-acre parcel located directly adjacent on the north side of State Road 312. Since that time, a small portion of the property was investigated in relation to a Florida Department of Transportation (FDOT) project (Stokes 1996), during which a portion of one prehistoric site (8SJ3299) was encountered in the extreme northwestern corner of the property. Additional work of a more extensive nature has been conducted by ESI (Smith et al. 2003a, 2003b) and is included in the discussions below.

#### City of St. Augustine Survey (White and Halbirt 2001)

The City investigation included systematic auger and shovel testing throughout the study area on a 25-meter grid. As a result, pockets of prehistoric artifacts associated with the Late Archaic and Mississippian periods were encountered. The National Register listed Jesse Fish Plantation was found to include the house and guardhouse foundations, a well, and two tombs, in addition to a wharf and channel system. The wharf is in the northwestern portion of the Island directly south of the SR 312 Bridge, while the channels are located along the western and eastern edges of the Island. The central portion of Fish Island, where the house, guardhouse, well, and Jesse Fish's tomb are located, is currently being preserved (White and Halbirt 2001).

#### Environmental Services, Inc. (Smith et al. 2003a, 2003b)

Previous testing by ESI began with shovel testing and limited excavation that built on the work by the City of St. Augustine in 2001. The initial cultural resource assessment survey (Smith et al. 2003a) included shovel testing, as well as preliminary sketch mapping of the wharf and associated channels associated with the Fish Plantation. The eastern portion of the parcel was originally part of Anastasia Island prior to the introduction of dredge spoil during the 1920s that united the former Fish Island with the larger Anastasia Island; the eastern part of the study area contained no archaeological sites, historic structures, or isolated artifacts. To the west were the previously recorded 18<sup>th</sup> century plantation home of Jesse Fish (8SJ62NR), and the Troll site (8SJ3299), a prehistoric artifact scatter recorded by FDOT (Stokes 1996).

The ESI survey encountered a well and surrounding intact occupational midden located north of the privately owned outparcel that contains the remains of the Fish Plantation residence. The cultural remains included a mix of historic and prehistoric artifacts, and intact features associated with both time periods were expected to be present in this location. This area was recommended for data recovery/mitigation, and is the primary focus of the present study. An addendum to the survey was prepared (Smith et al. 2003b) that provided a Scope of Work for the mitigation steps reported herein, as approved by SHPO in a letter of October 29, 2003.

## II. HISTORIC CONTEXTS FOR JESSE FISH AND FISH ISLAND

The methodology used in developing the Fish Island historical context consisted of researching, compiling, and preparing a historical narrative associated with Jesse Fish and his primary plantation on Anastasia Island known as El Vergel. The property is located in Section 29, Township 7 south, Range 30 East on Anastasia Island. Research was conducted at the Clerk of Court, Recording Department at St. Johns County Courthouse, St. Augustine, Florida; Jacksonville Public Library; District Headquarters, U. S. Army Corps of Engineers, Jacksonville, Florida; Bureau of Historic Preservation, Tallahassee; Government Documents Department, University of Florida; Map and Imagery Library, University of Florida; P. K. Yonge Library of Florida History, University of Florida; and St. Augustine Historical Society Research Library in St. Augustine, Florida. The research furnished contextual references that assisted in establishing an understanding of some of the historic patterns of development, land use, and ownership at Fish Island. Following the research, an outline and strategy were devised to prepare a historical report. In conjunction with composing the narrative, illustrations were incorporated into the narrative to help the reader visualize the history of the area.

### Introduction

Writing for *Harper's New Monthly Magazine* in 1874 and 1875, Constance Fenimore Woolson, a great-niece of James Fenimore Cooper, described the Ancient City through the lens of Niece Martha, a fictional character from New York City who visited St. Augustine with her Aunt Diana, Iris Carew, John Hoffman, Professor Macquoid, and Sara St. John at the close of Reconstruction in the South. After chastising Martha for her mistaken observation on Florida's brief past, John Hoffman gave his fellow travelers a short history lesson, recounting that "Because the country is desolate and thinly settled, you suppose it to be also wild and new, like the Western States and Territories. You forget how long this far peninsula has been known to the white man. These shores were settled more than a century before Plymouth or Jamestown, and you can scarcely go out in any direction around St. Augustine without coming upon old groves of orange and fig trees, a ruined stone wall, or fallen chimney. Poor Florida! she is full of deserted plantations."

Woolson's literary excursion regarding St. Augustine included a description of one of those plantations, "El Vergel," the home of Jesse Fish of Anastasia Island. As they "entered the enchanted domain it seemed to be a large plantation run to waste; symmetrical fields surrounded by high hedges of sour orange, loaded with its fruit; old furrows still visible in the never-freezing ground; everywhere traces of careful labor and cultivation, which had made the sandy island blossom as a rose. In the centre of a broad lawn were the ruins of a mansion, the white chimney alone standing, like a monument to the past. Beyond, a path led down to a circle of trees with even, dense foliage; there, in the centre, shut out from the glare of the sunshine, alone in the greenery, stood a solitary tomb, massive and dark, without date or inscription save what the little fingers of lichen had written."

Ostensibly the experiences of a late nineteenth century romantic novelist, that brief passage by Woolson provides a glimpse into the nineteenth-century ruins and the eighteenth-century mystery surrounding Jesse Fish, who lived in St. Augustine for nearly five decades under British and Spanish rule. Characterized and appraised by various historians, most notably Gold (1963) and



Schafer (2001), the "Fish legend" developed, in part, through Fish's long residence in the Ancient City and his dealings with both British and Spanish authorities. Reappraisals by various historians and writers have assessed Fish as a cunning crook, infamous, insidious schemer, land dealer, notorious, sinister figure, slaver, smuggler, usurer, savior of St. Augustine, and Florida's first exporter of oranges. Writing about Fish in 1973, Gold found that Fish's "spectre continues to haunt Florida historians." A quarter century later, historian Daniel Schafer (2001:261) found that "it is still not possible to determine the truth" about Fish's dealings with Spanish land owners in St. Augustine.

Although Fish owned numerous properties in St. Augustine and claimed millions of acres elsewhere in northeast Florida, his primary plantation and home were located on Anastasia Island. Although various ledgers and documents remain from the Fish era (1735-1790), no plans of the plantation--prepared under Fish's direction--have been located. Various cartographic resources from the first Spanish, British, and second Spanish periods reveal some of the built environment at Fish Island. But, few first-hand accounts of the development of El Vergel were recorded by Fish, or at least survive to the present.

During the first Spanish period, central Anastasia Island supported San Julian, a Timucuan village. In 1740, James Oglethorpe's troops occupied the north end of the island to lay siege to St. Augustine. At the close of the first Spanish period, Jesse Fish owned Anastasia Island. His presence there extended between the first and second Spanish periods, and his rise to prominence as a planter and landholder there seems to have occurred in the 1760s. After his death in 1790, Fish's heirs petitioned the U. S. Board of Land Commissioners for Anastasia Island. The commissioners confirmed the grant in 1825 and Congress affirmed the finding in 1828. But, Fish's heirs failed to comply with their legal obligations established by the Congress, and in the 1890s the general land office refused to recognize the validity of the claim. After being held by Jesse Fish for nearly five decades and confirmed as private lands by Congress, Fish Island and most of Anastasia Island became public lands.

Historic-period owners associated with Fish Island between the 1870s and 1920s include D. P. Davis Properties, Arthur L. and Marie Pamies, William Mickler, Albert D. Rogero, Philip T. Rogero, and William J. Sanchez. The latter owner maintained a farm on Fish Island into the early-1920s. Various maps indicate that Fish Island remained separated from Anastasia Island by a tidal marsh until the 1920s. In 1925 and 1926, reclamation efforts by developer D. P. Davis filled in adjacent wetlands to incorporate the island as part of Anastasia Island and the fashionable Davis Shores subdivision. As depicted on 1920s plat maps, Fish Island was scheduled to become part of the yacht and country club sections. The collapse of the Florida Land Boom stalled land sales, however, and none of the blocks and lots located on Fish Island were developed or sold during the mid-1920s and early-1930s.

The Fish Island section of the Davis Shores subdivision was returned to acreage in the mid-1930s, when D. P. Davis Properties became bankrupt. In 1935, Davis Shores, Inc., a real estate corporation organized by John D. Thompson and Harold E. Ryman, acquired Fish Island and numerous other unsold lots and parcels from D. P. Davis Properties. Over the following decades, the corporation maintained ownership of Fish Island, which remained undeveloped. In 1972, John Thompson's son, Pierre Thompson, was instrumental in listing the Fish Island Site (8SJ62NR) in

the *National Register of Historic Places*. During the decade, the construction of State Road 312 bisected the northern part of the island, prompting concerns over the preservation of the ruins of El Vergel, the eighteenth century plantation, and the late nineteenth and early twentieth century W. J. Sanchez Farm.

### **Anastasia Island and San Julian Village Context**

The following narrative is quoted from Smith 1998 (13-14), and incorporates information compiled from Patricia Griffin (1998):

"The entire central section of Anastasia Island appears to have been called San Julian during the First Spanish Period (1565-1763). It is not known whether this appellation derives from the creek of the same name, located slightly north of the Ocean Palms property, or whether San Julian was a simultaneous designation given to both the creek and the land. Prior to and during the early Colonial years the area is documented as containing an established Indian town named San Julian. It is mentioned as *Rio Dulce*, or Freshwater, village of the cacique Antonio in both the Friars' and Soldiers' lists of 1602. All the caciques of the *rio dulce* (or *aqua dulce*) villages were Christian, and the San Julian village included a church."

"In 1566, two *casa fuertes* (defensive blockhouses) were built to protect St. Augustine, one at the Indian town of Selay and the second at San Julian. According to translations Lyon (1997:139) of Spanish accounting records (from the Archive General de las Indias Contraduria 941), the second fort was "in the strong house of San Julian, which is on this island, two leagues from this said fort of St. Augustine." The measurement of a land league thought to have been in use at the time equaled 3.4 English statute miles, which at a distance of 2 leagues would have placed the San Julian blockhouse approximately 6.8 miles south of the first fort at St. Augustine. The distance between those two points as the crow flies is approximately 7 miles."

"More than a century after account describe the existence of a blockhouse at San Julian, First Spanish Period documents refer to a small Catholic mission settlement in the same location that was occupied by a group of Indians known as the Casapuya. This mission/town was also known as San Nicholas de Casapuya, and is depicted on the 1737 Arredondo Map. A priest was attached to this *doctrina*, which included a church and convent of palm-thatch. At some time in the years that followed, the mission and village were apparently relocated to the opposite side of the Matanzas River, a practice that was apparently no unusual within the Franciscan mission system in Florida."

"Documentation of San Julian during the British Period (1763-1783) is provided by three maps on file in the Crown Collection at the St. Augustine Historical Society Research Library. The first of these is from 1763-1764 by an unknown cartographer who identified areas of occupation or previous settlement for use by the new British authorities. Two contiguous agricultural fields are shown that are labeled "A settlement gone to decay". A second British map labels the same general area as "Plantations abandoned," while a third map by Juan Elixio de la Puente shows the location as "Farmlands named San Julian," but does not depict the fields. To the north of the farmlands is "the Creek of the Madre of San Julian. Griffin notes that Puente may have been the owner of the property at that time, and that although the map is dated 1769 it may have been completed after he left Florida at the end of the First Spanish Period."

"During the British Period, much of the land on Anastasia Island was owned by Jesse Fish. El Vergel was the name for the entire Fish plantation and more specifically for what is today called Fish's Island, where Fish built his house and accompanying buildings. Strangely, however, El Vergel is shown on the Moncrief map of 1764 in the middle of Anastasia Island in the approximately location of San Julian. Griffin provides a good explanation for this apparent confusion by suggesting that Puerta could have farmed the plantation fields when they were referred to as San Julian during the First Spanish Period, before the Fish property acquired the name El Vergel during the British Period."

### Mid-Eighteenth Century Context

In 1740, using the War of Jenkin's Ear as a pretext, James Oglethorpe led his Georgia troops into Florida. Oglethorpe captured Fort San Diego and Fort Picolata, using the former as his temporary Florida headquarters. Oglethorpe then occupied the north end of Anastasia Island, where he established his permanent headquarters, and laid siege to St. Augustine for nearly a month. (Figure 2.1). However, in June 1740, Oglethorpe was compelled to evacuate the island and return to Savannah after supporting troops at Fort Mose were slaughtered by Spanish forces, Indians, and free blacks (Landers 1999:36-37).

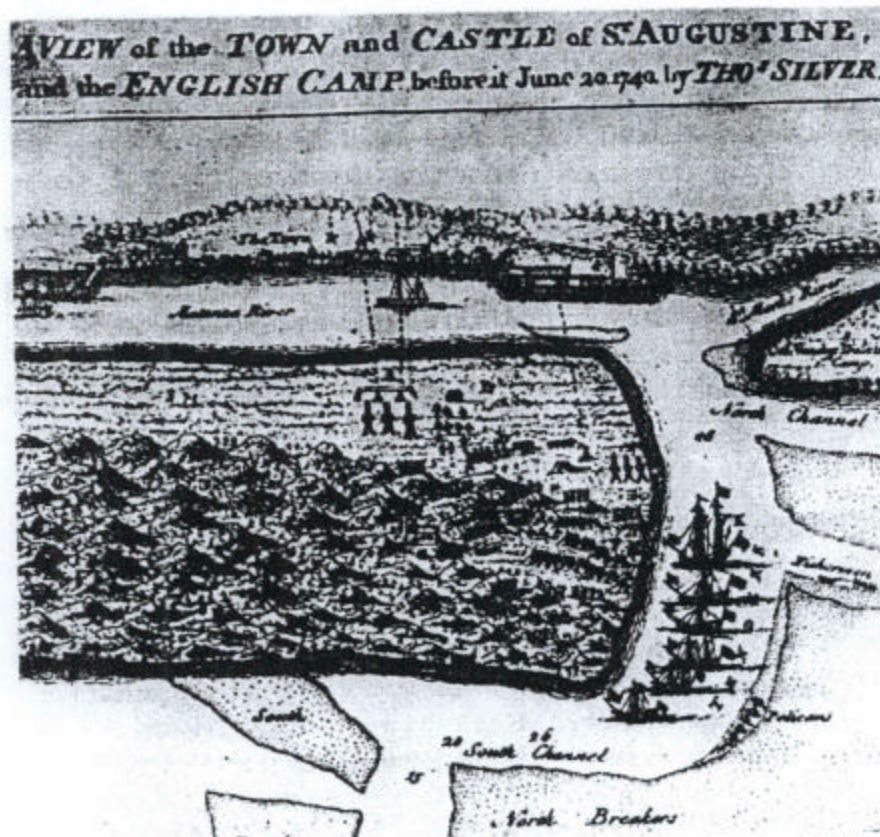


Figure 2.1: St. Augustine and the English Camp, 1740 (from Gannon 1996)

In 1743, Oglethorpe invaded Florida a second time, and again captured Fort San Diego. After repelling Oglethorpe a second time, the Spanish improved their defensive positions. The latent

threat of incursions by the English dampened further expansion of the land grant system and the nascent economy based on cattle ranching and citrus languished (Adams Bell Weaver 1985:18, 22; Sastre 1995:26-29, 32, 35). Over the following two decades, Spain strengthened its defensive network in Florida, and demonstrated effective diplomatic skills in playing off Native Americans against the English and French. After 1743, the English made few attempts to dislodge the Spanish Crown from Florida (TePaske 1976:xxxix-xl).

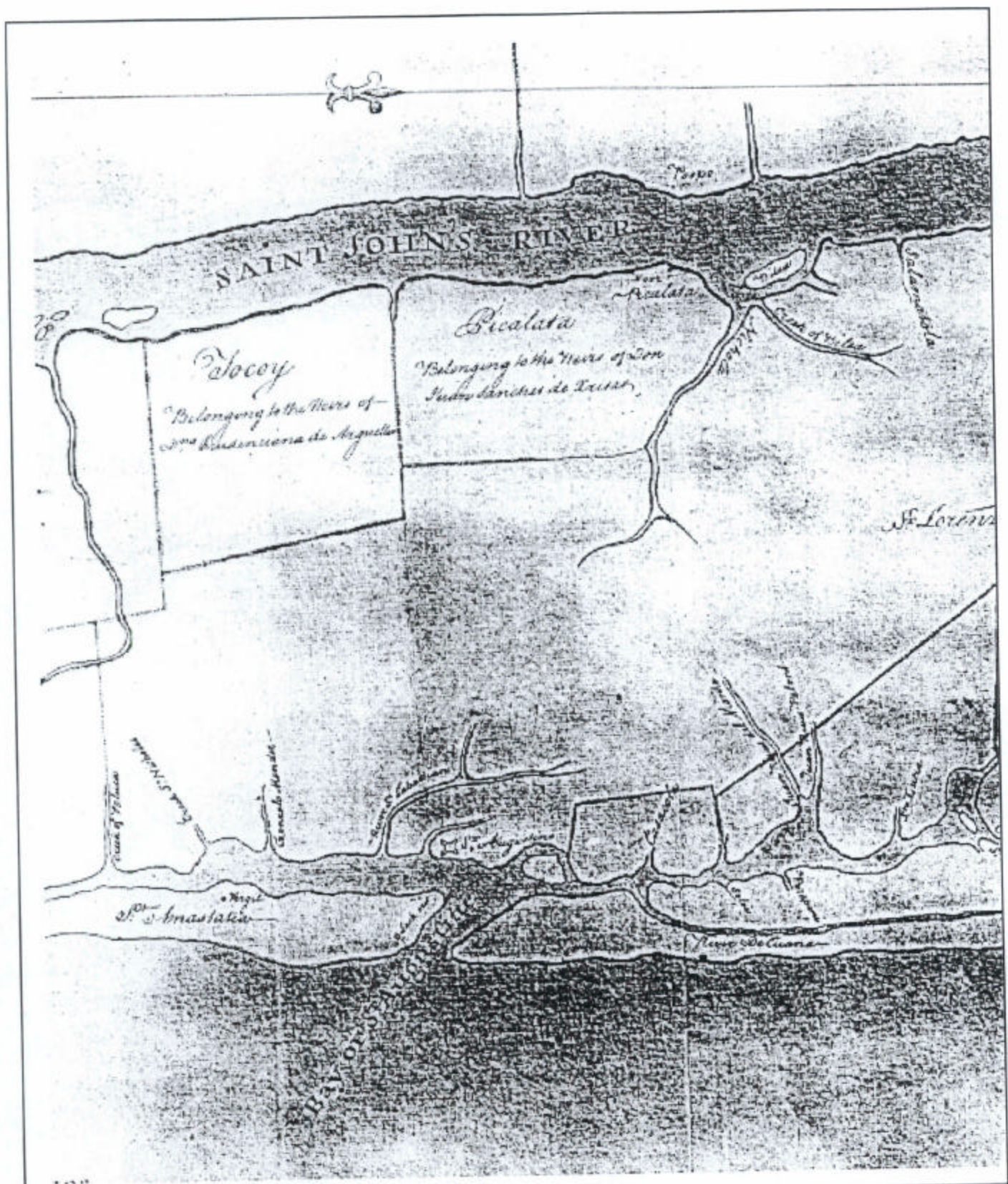
In 1763, the Spanish Crown, for its part in backing the defeated French in the Seven Year's War, surrendered Florida to England. The British Crown appointed James Grant as governor of East Florida (1763-1770), who established a line dividing East Florida and West Florida along the Apalachicola River. St. Augustine became the provincial capital of East Florida. In 1765, Indian leaders and Crown officials met at Picolata, where they agreed to limit English expansion to the northeastern part of the province. The British invalidated the earlier Spanish land grants, and implemented a liberal land grant system (Gannon 1993:18; Harper 1958:118; Schafer 1982:49-50; Rogers 1976:479; Siebert 1929 1:68; Mowat 1943:21-26, 53-55, 61).

The Crown Collection of Photographs of American Maps contains several images of Anastasia Island at the middle of the eighteenth century. Figure 2.2 depicts large estates, plantations, and landholdings in northeast Florida at the close of the first Spanish period. The British invalidated the majority of these in the 1760s. In addition to the Picolata and Tocoli holdings along the St. Johns River, a plantation labeled as "Virgil" is identified on Anastasia Island. Shortly after the British took possession of East Florida, several additional maps were published, and are referenced in the previous discussion by Griffin and Smith. Prepared about 1763 (Figure 2.3), one resource identifies on Anastasia Island the "remains of Gen. Oglethorpe's Battery," the "place where boats take in shell from the Quarries," the lookout tower, and plantations abandoned. At the approximate location of Fish Island, the cartographer identified the development as "Watt's Plantation." A revised edition of the map identified the site as "Mr. Fish's Plantation" (Hulbert 1915:56, 79, 81) (Figure 2.4).

The British found Florida with few remaining European settlers, for more than 3,000 people left with the evacuating Spanish. Without colonists, the English government realized its plans for developing the province were threatened. Consequently, Grant and the British Crown launched a vigorous public relations and land grant program designed to encourage settlers and development. The program enjoyed some success; between 1764 and 1770, approximately 3,000,000 acres of grants were issued by the Crown in East Florida alone (Rogers 1976:479, 484, 486-487; Mowat 1943:21-26, 53-55, 57-61).

In 1765 and 1766, William Gerard de Brahm, the surveyor general for the district of North America, surveyed St. Augustine and its inlet and later published a map of the vicinity (Figure 2.5). Other than a lighthouse, a clam pond, Black Point, and Sugarloaf Mount, DeBrahm noted few man-made or natural features on Anastasia Island, and did not ascribe the island to the ownership to Jesse Fish. Some of the features on the mainland detailed by DeBrahm included Governor Grant's Farm, Bella Vista, Fountainball, the holdings of William Mills, and various named roads. But, the name El Vergel did not appear on Anastasia Island, an indication that the plantation was in





ENVIRONMENTAL  
SERVICES, INC.

Hulbert 1915:56  
**Fish Island**  
St. Johns County, Florida

Figure: 2.2

Project: EJ00313.03

Date: March 2004



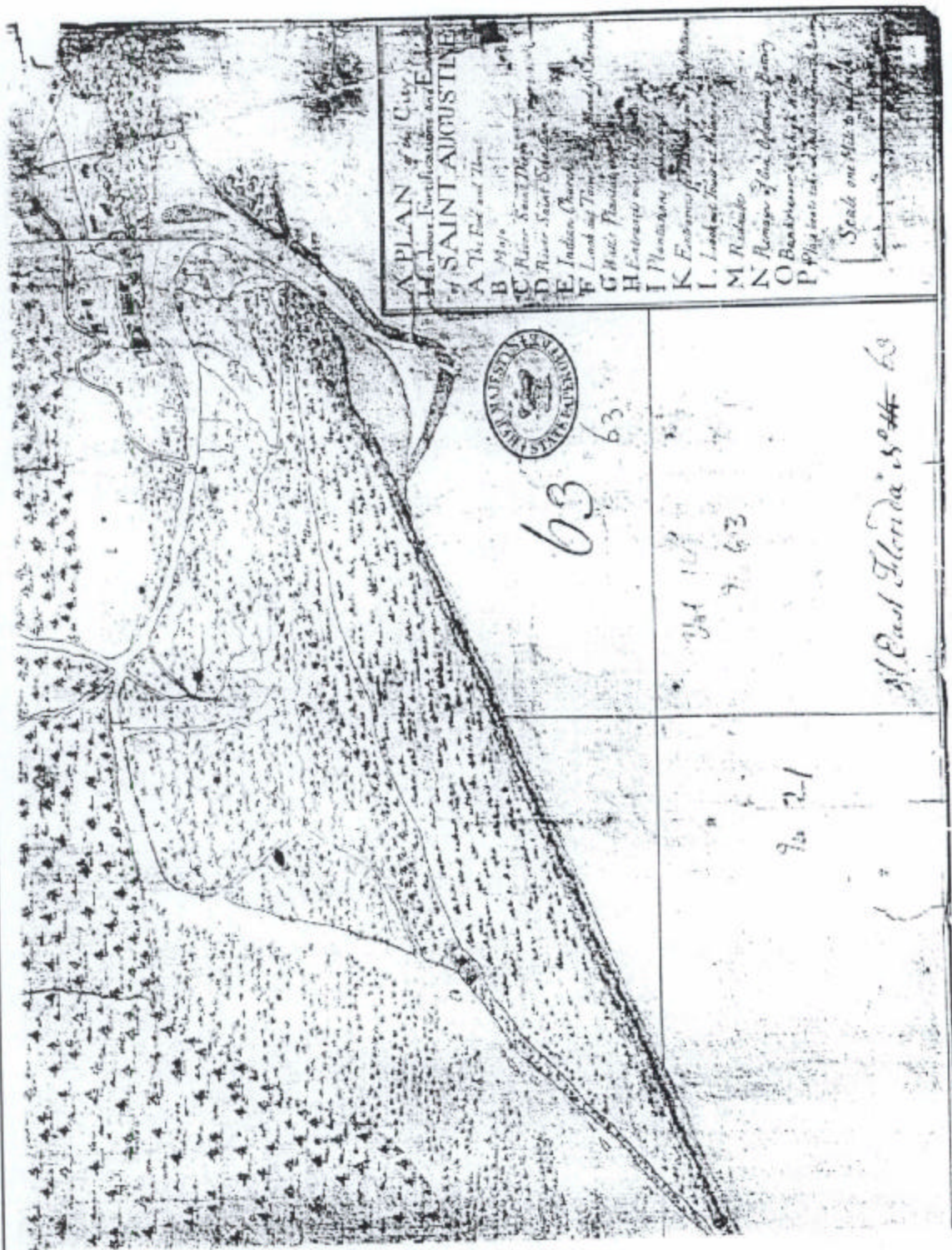


Figure: 2.3

Project: EJ00313.03

Date: March 2004

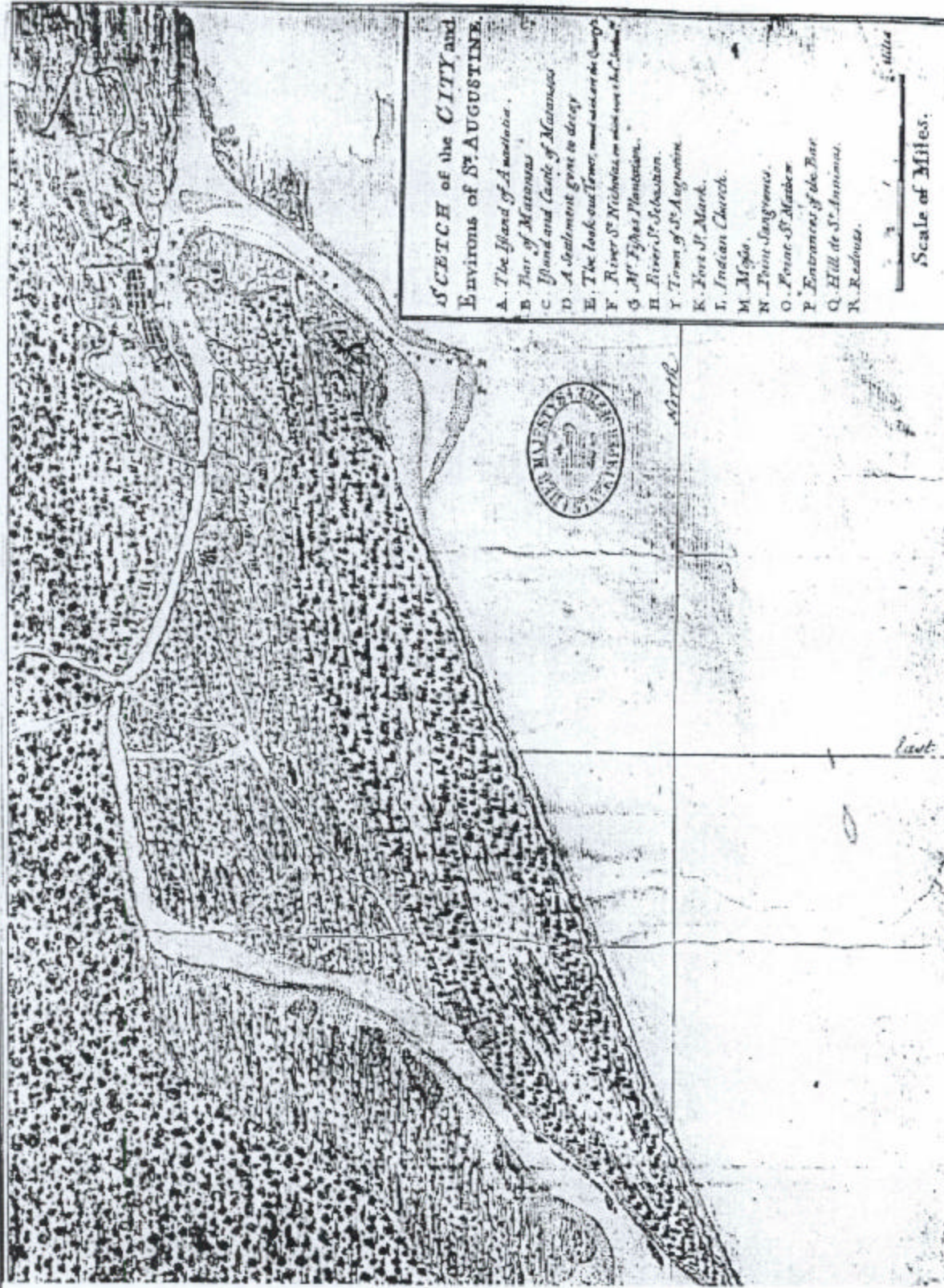
Hulbert 1915:79

**Fish Island**

St. Johns County, Florida







Hulbert 1915:81

## Fish Island

St. Johns County, Florida

Figure: 2.4

Project: EJ00313.03

Date: March 2004





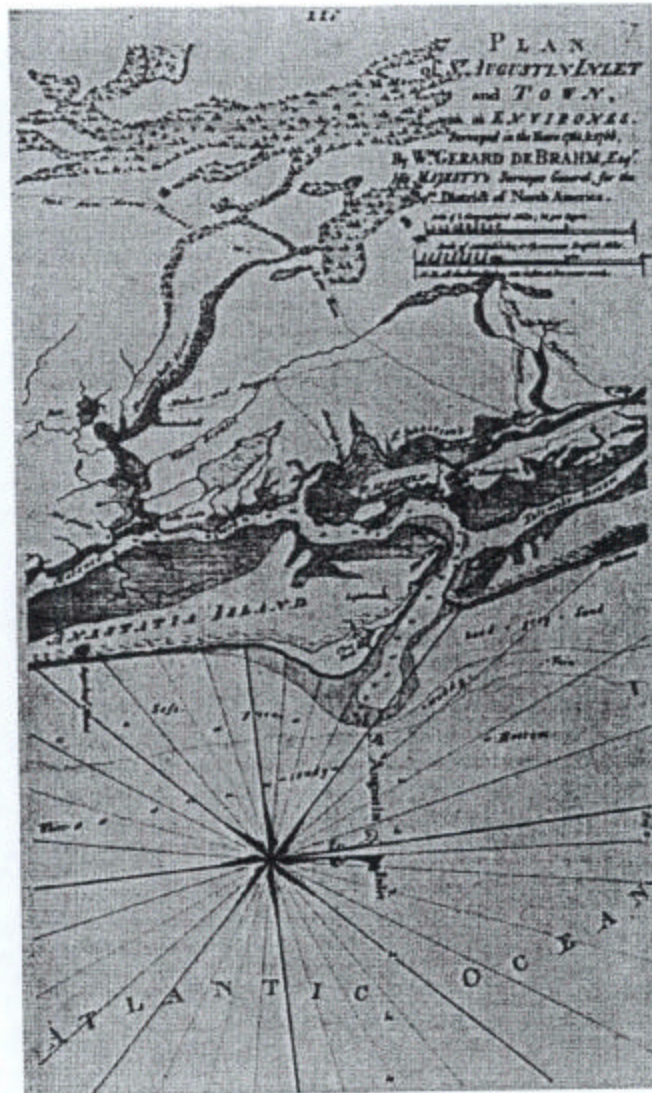


Figure 2.5: Plan of St. Augustine Inlet and Town, 1765 & 1766 (from DeVorsey 1971)

a nascent state during the mid-1760s. In an inventory of East Florida residents, DeBrahm enumerated Fish as a planter and storekeeper (DeVorsey 1971:181, 204).

A native of Germany trained as an engineer, William DeBrahm immigrated to America in the 1740s, arrived in Georgia in 1751, and published his first map of the colony in 1752. DeBrahm's skill as a cartographer soon extended beyond Georgia, and England's surveyor-general called upon the engineer to develop plans for defenses and coastal maps. He was appointed surveyor-general for the southern district of North America in 1764, and relocated to St. Augustine in 1765 to serve as East Florida's surveyor-general of lands. But, friction developed between Governor Grant and DeBrahm, who was ordered to London in 1771 to answer charges of malpractice in his official capacity. In 1773, while in London awaiting his hearing, DeBrahm published a lengthy textual report replete with maps of the coasts of South Carolina, Georgia, and East Florida. In 1774, he



was reinstated as East Florida's provincial surveyor, all the while retaining the title of surveyor-general of the southern district of North America (DeVorse 1971:6-8, 33-35, 46-47).

In addition to financial compensation, DeBrahm received various land grants in Georgia and Florida for his loyalty and services to the British Crown. DeBrahm acquired substantial landholdings in Georgia in the 1750s. But, he became disenchanted with his lands near Savannah, and by 1757 had based his operations at "Anaugusta" near Ebenezer, when he remained until 1760, when he built a home in Savannah (DeVorse 1971:27-29, 34). Despite his superior ability at mapping, DeBrahm "was not a great planter and did not understand how to use slavery and land to gain riches..." (Gallay 1989:98). Still, DeBrahm played an important role in charting Florida's coast, marking the locations of grants and contributing to the cartographic history of Florida's twenty-year British period.

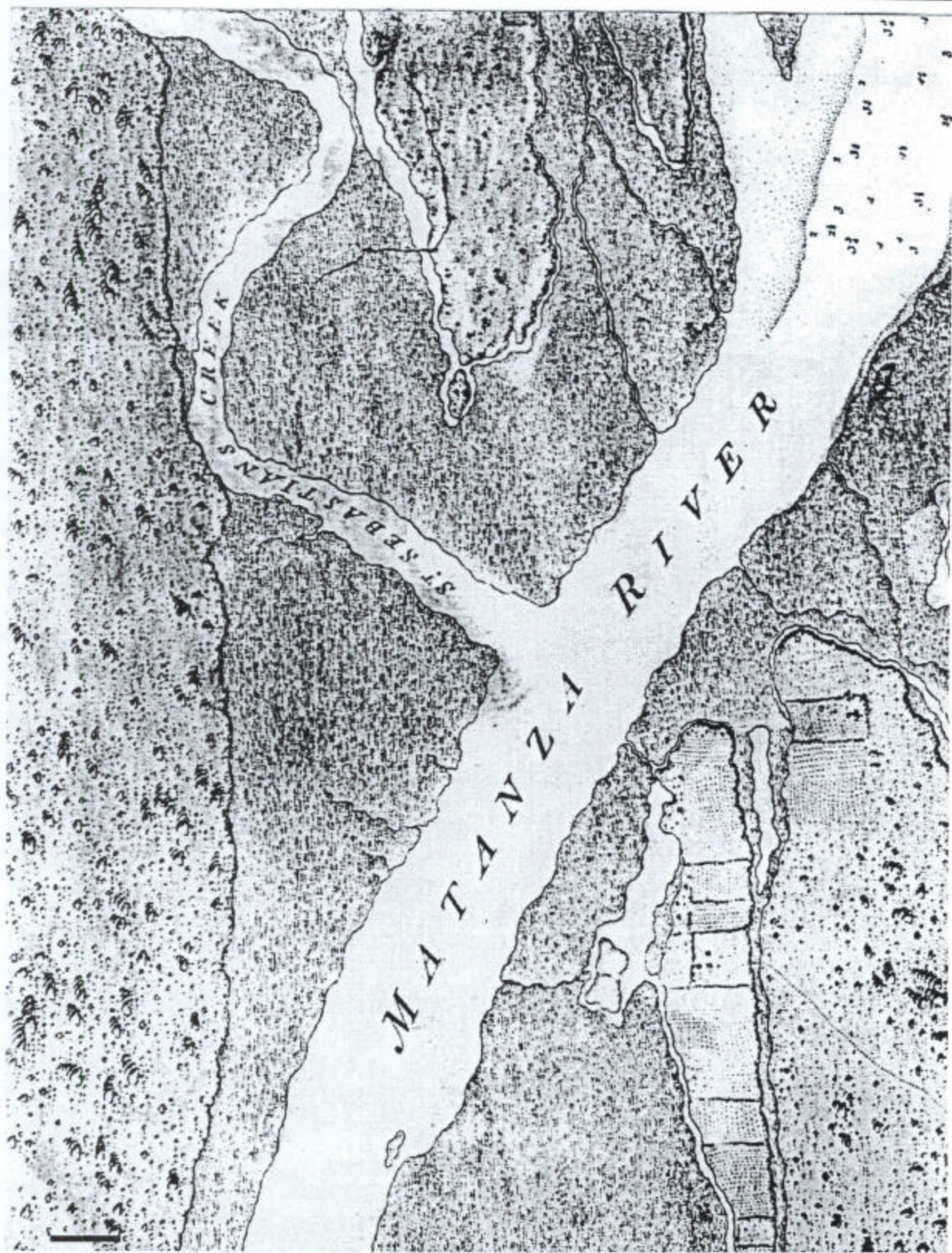
Equal in mapmaking talents to DeBrahm, military engineer Joseph F. W. Des Barres prepared another important map of St. Augustine during the British period. A copy at St. Augustine Historical Society Research Library carries a handwritten date of c. 1780, but another source indicates that certain features, notably the defensive line, date the map to approximately 1765 (Figure 2.6). Born in France in 1722, Des Barres escaped to England as a child with his family, fleeing persecution by Catholics. Des Barres received his training at the Basle and the Royal Military College at Woolwich. In 1756, he commanded the field artillery of the 60th Regiment and then served as an aide-de-camp to General Wolfe at Quebec. His military skills helped destroy Fort Jacque and drive the French out of Canada (Stephen and Lee 1950 5:852-853).

Between 1763 and 1773, Des Barres surveyed and mapped the coast of Nova Scotia for the British Crown, after which he prepared charts of the North American coastline. His "Plan of the Harbour of St. Augustine in the Province of Georgia" appeared in volume 3, part 2, no. 58 of Des Barres' treatise *Atlantic Neptune*, which the engineer published in 1780 for use by the Royal Navy (see Figure 2.6). Prepared in 1988, a hand-copied version of the "Plan of the Harbour of St. Augustine in the Province of Georgia" (Figure 2.7) carries a publication date of 1764, suggesting that Des Barres conducted his work at St. Augustine at the opening of Florida's British period, rather than in the mid-1770s. Notwithstanding the conflicting publication dates of these similar maps, Des Barres depicted the location of the stone quarries on Anastasia Island, and the fields and orchards on Fish Island with various buildings sprinkling the landscape. Features at the island recorded by the engineer included a path leading eastward from the island to a developed road that runs on a north-south axis on Anastasia Island. Des Barres did not identify ownership of any of the plantations around St. Augustine, including Fish Island, but the maps published in 1764 and 1780 note subtle changes in the system of fields, buildings, and other features on the island. The British Crown appointed Des Barres lieutenant governor of Cape Breton in 1784, and he died in 1824 in Nova Scotia (Stephen and Lee 1950 5:852-853; Des Barres 1780).

### **Jesse Fish and El Vergel Context**

Born at Newtown, Long Island, New York in either 1724 or 1726, Jesse Fish arrived in St. Augustine in 1735 with Charles Hicks, a factor in the William Walton Exporting Company of New York. As an apprentice clerk, Fish learned the occupation of company sales agent, but in 1739 was made a prisoner of war by the Spanish, who were engaged in King George's War with the English.





ENVIRONMENTAL  
SERVICES, INC.

*A Plan of the Harbour of St. Augustine  
in the Province of Georgia (Des Barres 1780)*

**Fish Island**

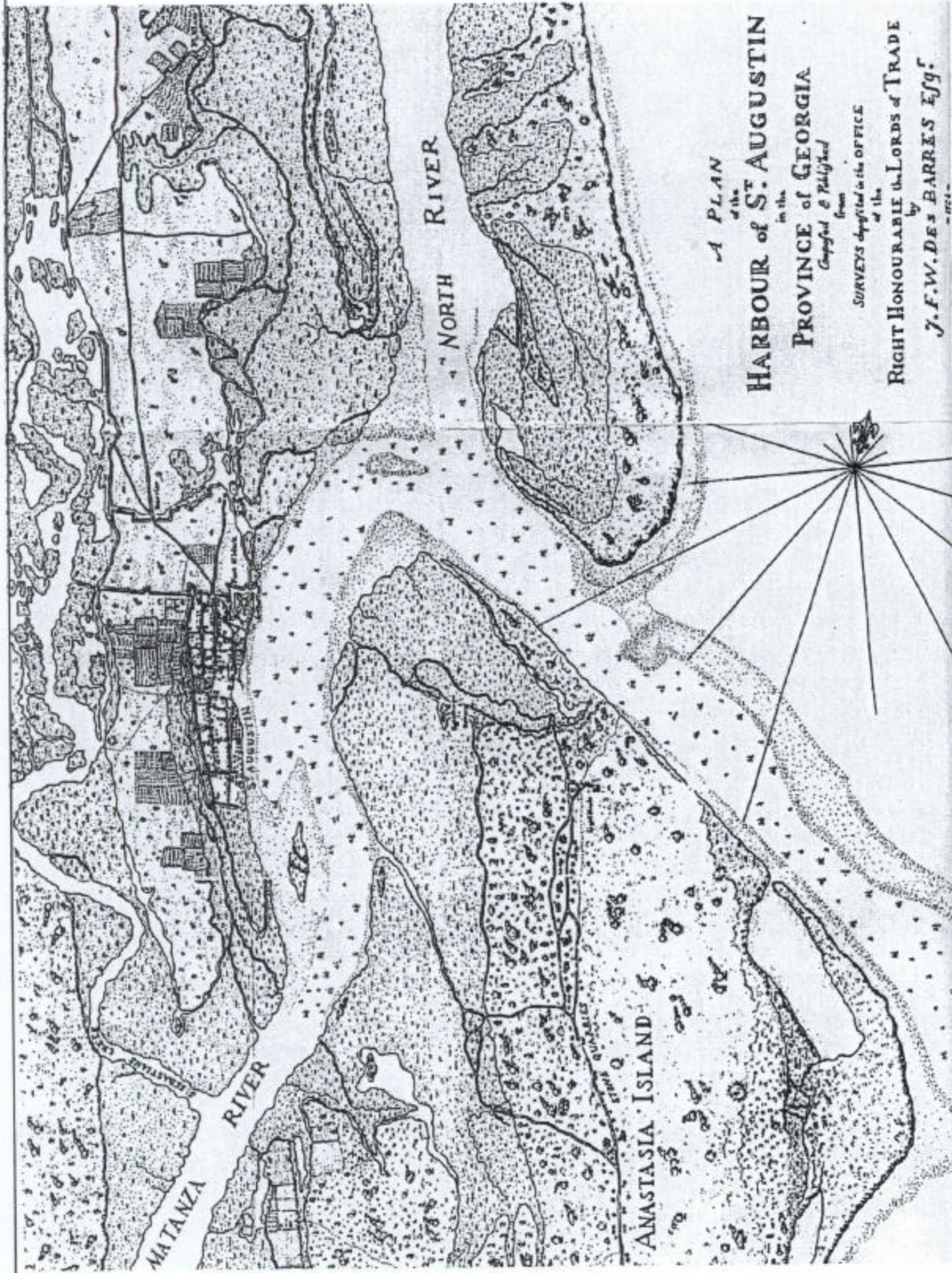
St. Johns County, Florida

Figure: 2.6

Project: EJ00313.03

Date: March 2004





A Plan of the Harbour of St. Augustine  
in the Province of Georgia (Des Barres 1764)  
**Fish Island**  
St. Johns County, Florida

Figure: 2.7
Project: EJ00313.03
Date: March 2004





In 1748, following the end of hostilities, Fish returned to St. Augustine, where he again worked for the Walton Company (Schafer 2001:6-7). Later, as the company's agent, Fish secured many of the provisions, staples, and supplies that the Royal Havana Company of Cuba could not obtain for the residents of St. Augustine. A forbidden activity, English-Spanish transactions arranged by Fish supplemented St. Augustine's meager agricultural production and inconsistent subsidy from Cuba.

Because of Fish's effective procurement strategies and relatively quiet presence he gained respect as a Protestant businessman in Catholic East Florida (Schafer 2001:6-7).

In the fall of 1762, Fish smuggled sufficient food and supplies from Charleston into St. Augustine to prevent the starvation of the city's residents. His illicit procurement of flour and meat from Charleston during the Seven Year's War endeared him to many residents of St. Augustine, some of whom considered him the "savior of St. Augustine" (Kingston 1987:67). Master of several Walton Company sloops, Fish occasionally sailed the eastern coast, traveling on business to Charleston, Cuba, and New York. In 1763, when Spain ceded East Florida to England, Fish was among the few residents who was determined to remain in the former Spanish province. In remaining, he both took advantage of opportunities and assisted in the transition from Spanish to English rule. Between April 1763 and February 1764, 3,726 people evacuated St. Augustine and its outposts. The town then contained approximately 300 dwellings (Gold 1973:1-3; Schafer 2001:1-6; Kingston 1987:67).

Under the terms of the Treaty of Paris, Spanish residents were permitted eighteen months to dispose of their properties. Few property owners found buyers. Instead, many former residents, before departing for Havana or Mexico, conveyed their properties to the King's agent and royal engineer, Juan José Elixio de la Puente. But, Puente also experienced several challenges disposing of the property, which included a small number of English settlers, the promise of land grants to new settlers from the English Crown, and the military character of England's occupation. Confounded by few property sales, Puente resorted to a confidential arrangement with Fish, one of the few residents that Puente believed he could trust with the properties. In July 1764, the Spanish official transferred approximately 200 houses, lots, and properties in and around St. Augustine to Fish (Gold 1973:5-6, 8).

Puente's failure to convey the property would have resulted in the properties reverting to the English Crown, and the former Spanish owners would have lost one of their most valuable possessions. Before leaving St. Augustine, Puente asked Luciano Herrera, a native of St. Augustine who had also decided to remain in the town after the transfer of flags, to collect monies from Fish and send the proceeds to Havana (Schafer 2001:7). With the transfer, Fish controlled most of the property in St. Augustine (Gold 1973:5-6, 8).

Siebert indicates that in the periods between 1764-1770 and 1775-1780, Fish sold houses and property to ninety people, but found no buyers for the remaining holdings (Siebert 1929 2:365). Gold asserts that between 1763 and 1780, Fish sold 111 properties (Gold 1973:5-6, 8). Daunted by various challenges to sell the properties entrusted to him, Fish claimed that the British demolished some of the houses conveyed to him. Furthering complicating his affairs, some friends and relatives paid him for properties with embezzled funds. Some evidence exists that Puente refused to provide Fish with authentic documents and titles to transfer properties because the confidential

nature of the property transfers after 1764 contravened agreements contained in the 1763 Treaty of Paris (Schafer 2001:8). By 1783, at the close of the British period, Fish still held forty-seven lots, 156 major buildings, and forty-eight minor buildings. His holdings then amounted to approximately one-third of the real estate in St. Augustine and one-half of the city's dwellings. Virtually overnight, Fish had amassed a realty empire in St. Augustine and he maintained many of those properties throughout the British period (Gold 1973:5-6, 8).

During the interval, Fish established partnerships with John Gordon and Jacobus Kip, the latter a brother-in-law. An English Catholic who operated a mercantile company in Charleston, South Carolina, Gordon purchased several properties in St. Augustine, including the former royal treasurer's house. In the 1760s, Gordon leased the property to the British lieutenant governor. In association with Fish, Gordon purchased several St. Augustine's church properties from the Spanish Crown before their departure. With that action, the Spanish hoped to keep the English from taking possession of their sacred architecture. The occupying English were confounded to find Fish and Gordon major landowners in St. Augustine and large sections of East Florida. They did not permit Fish to retain the recently acquired properties. Claiming proprietary rights to all properties associated with church-and-state, the occupying British seized the religion-related properties from the businessmen for the Crown. The English converted the Convent of St. Francis into a barracks for the garrison, and the former Spanish bishop's residence became a center for religious activities (Gold 1973:7; Siebert 1929:2:277).

The investment partnership of Fish and Gordon also claimed millions of acres along Florida's northeast coastline and astride the St. Johns River. Containing 1,058 square leagues, the properties consisted of numerous large estates, plantations, and tracts of lands, including Palica and Pupo, Pajacara, San Diego and La Nea, San Buena Ventura and Tocoy, Santa Lucia, San Lorenzo de Aramasaca, San Matheo, San Nicholas, San Geronimo, Arato and Exapile, Picalata, San Onosre and Pirigirigua, San Phelipe and Aracu, Los Corrales, Yquirico, Saint Ana de Asasa, Tocacruz, Yuisai, La Rosa del Diabolo, Aquitasique, La Chua, Abosalla, and Tampa. But, Governor Grant refused to register their deeds, and another British official described the titles as "far from indubitable." Frustrated by Grant's intransigence, Gordon and Fish appealed to King George, III in 1772 with a petition entitled *The Case of Mr. John Gordon, with respect to the Title of Certain Lands in East Florida, Purchased of His Catholick Majesty's Subjects by him and Mr. Jesse Fish, for themselves and others His Britannick Majesty's subjects; in Conformity to the twentieth article of the last definitive Treaty of Peace*, which recounted their acquisitions and supplied testimony for their purchases (Walker 1772). General Thomas Gage believed the lands belonged to the Creeks, and that the real estate transaction between the Spanish and Gordon-Fish would eventually be invalidated. Grant refused to recognize the transactions until receiving the approval of the king, which never arrived. Lord Hillsborough pointed out to King George, III that the Fish-Gordon holdings represented "the best plantations lands in the province, better lands even than His Majesty's lands in the West Indies." Fish retained few of these lands (Schafer 2001:9; Gold 1963:22-23).

Despite his early claims to widespread holdings and prominence as a landowner in St. Augustine and East Florida, Fish also gained renowned for his plantation, El Vergel, on Anastasia Island. During the late first Spanish and British periods Fish claimed to be the only proprietor on Anastasia Island. The date Fish established El Vergel remains unclear, however. French botanist



Andre' Michaux indicated that Fish had established himself on Anastasia Island in 1736 (Taylor and Norman 2002:67, 91). In contrast, neither of the Bartrams nor Bernard Romans spoke to the age or origin of El Vergel, although William Bartram visited Anastasia Island several times (Berkeley and Berkeley 1982; Harper 1958; Romans 1775; Slaughter 1996). In his studies of Jesse Fish and El Vergel, historian Robert Gold did not provide a date of establishment for the plantation: the clearing of fields, excavation of ditches and canals, or development of buildings. Notwithstanding an apparent paucity of evidence for the organization date of the plantation, it appears that development began in the late first Spanish period. The center of development of the El Vergel plantation radiated across a small island, which became known as Fish Island east of the mouth of the St. Sebastian River (Arnade 1961:7, 9; Gold 1963:22; Tebeau 1971:75).

Various translated as "beautiful orchard," "garden adorned with fruit trees," or simply "orange grove," El Vergel Plantation became Fish's permanent retreat late in life. In 1768, he married Sarah Warner, the daughter of St. Augustine's harbor pilot (Kingston 1987:63-64). By 1784, when England returned Florida to Spain, Fish permanently resided at El Vergel, in part, to "escape from the embarrassment and distress that followed his marriage to the seventeen-year-old Sarah Warner" (Schafer 2001:261). Kingston characterizes Fish as a hermit in retirement at El Vergel by the close of the British period (1987:66).

By then, El Vergel Plantation consisted of, in part, 3,000 mature citrus trees, orchards, and 200 horses (Schafer 2001:261). Davis (1937:234) attributes international renowned to the grove in the English period with Fish shipping oranges to Europe. Characterized as "the Solitary house on Fish's Island" a century later, a line drawing by Henry J. Morton depicted the main house at El Vergel as a two-and-one-half-story dwelling with coquina walls, a rectangular plan, side-facing gable roof, tiered entrance porch, and symmetrical fenestration. A study by Clara Kingston (1987) found many similarities between the Fish House on Anastasia Island and the Jonathan Fish House, built at Newtown, New York, about 1723 (Kingston 1987:68-70).

In the 1770s, Fish entertained various guests at El Vergel, including William Drayton, chief justice for East Florida (Mowat 1943:101). In 1781, during an exchange of American and British prisoners, Fish supplied chicken, fish, limes, lemons, melons, and oranges to Josiah Smith, a prominent Charleston merchant, and several other Patriots jailed by the British in the Castillo (Schafer 2001:228; Kingston 1987:66). Fish exported some of his citrus harvests to Charleston and England (Hill 1943:240). Noted for their sweetness and thin skins, oranges from El Vergel were used to produce "orange shrub," a mix of juice and spirits then popular in the South (Kingston 1987:64). Fish also experimented with the cultivation of dates and olives at El Vergel. Writing in 1775, Bernard Romans thought that El Vergel was "a pretty retreat on this island, about four miles from town; but as the land is barren it is more pleasant than profitable" (Braund 1999:245, Mowat 1943:70). The census of 1783 indicated that Fish possessed sixteen slaves and "too many horses to count" (*St. Augustine Record*, 7 January 2001).

As part of its agreement in the Treaty of Pairs in 1783 that officially brought to a close the American Revolution, England returned East Florida to Spain. To promote settlement and spur development in East Florida, the Spanish Crown emulated the former British policies in East Florida by improving roads and awarding large land grants. In 1790, the Crown issued a royal order that opened East Florida to all English speaking settlers professing the Roman Catholic faith.

Among the few requirements for land ownership leading to the establishment of a farm or plantation included evidence of financial resources and the swearing of an oath of allegiance to Spain. Contrary to official policy elsewhere in the Spanish empire, the Crown permitted non-Catholics to settle and receive land grants in Florida. Yet, by permitting settlers from Georgia, the Carolinas, and other states in the newly-formed United States of America to establish farms and plantations in Florida, Spanish authorities helped set the stage for unrest and rebellion in the province (Murdoch 1951:5-6; Tanner 1963:13-36; Miller 1974:1-10).

One of few residents of East Florida to span the interval between the first Spanish interval and British period, Fish remained in Florida after the return of the province to Spain in 1784 (Arnade 1961:9; Tebeau 1971:75, 91). With the exception of El Vergel, the returning Spanish authorities seized Fish's remaining properties in 1784, precipitating what amounted to a financial crisis for the aging landlord. Schafer assessed Fish as "broken in spirit, health, and fortune" at the close of the British period (Schafer 2001:262-263).

The change of flags and transition of government in East Florida created an unstable and lawless environment. In January 1785, crewmembers of a North Carolina cargo vessel raided El Vergel, breaking into the residence and fleeing with a bedsheet stuffed with valuables. Fish's servants fired their muskets at the retreating pirates, mortally wounding one of them. Although distressed by the raid, Fish remained more concerned about the ultimate fate of his landholdings (Schafer 2001:262-263). Characterizing Anastasia Island as a center of citrus and ranching, historian Gold documented from the 1786-1787 census that Fish maintained seventeen slaves and hundreds of horses on what he termed a "hacienda" (Gold 1973:7).

In 1787, Fish wrote Prime Minister William Pitt asking him to intervene on his behalf. He blamed Governor Grant for some of his alleged property losses, but was grateful to Lieutenant Governor Moultrie for taking his son, Jesse Fish, Jr., into his home and providing him with tutoring. Fish claimed "I had no money to send him to England, neither was I able to get him accommodated in any other line of life that promised his future welfare" (Schafer 2001:262-263). Fish lamented the return of the Spanish, commenting, "I am here only on sufferance, as to become a Spanish subject is the last thing in life I want to do" (Schafer 2001:262). Prior to 1790, his business partner, John Gordon, died in England while attempting to recover some of their business investments in East Florida (Siebert 1929 2:276, 365).

In 1788, French botanist Andre Michaux visited St. Augustine and El Vergel while on a three-month study of the province's flora. Without naming either Fish or El Vergel, Michaux stopped "at the house of a respectable old man established here for 52 years on the Isle of St. Anastasia" (Taylor and Norman 2002:67). Michaux referred to the Fish plantation as "a Paradise notwithstanding the different pillages by Pirates to which he had been exposed and the revolutions which he had twice experienced by the changing of ownership, this Province having gone since his day from the Spanish, to the English, and again to the jurisdiction of the Spanish" (Taylor and Norman 2002:67, 91-92). The botanist characterized Fish as the most hard working and industrious man in all of Florida. Michaux counted five hectares of orange trees on the plantation, commenting that the trees originated from seeds imported from India. Michaux's estimated age for El Vergel places the genesis of the plantation in 1736, when Jesse Fish was between ten and twelve years old and one year after his arrival in St. Augustine. Beyond his observations of El Vergel, the botanist

recorded various native plant species on Anastasia Island, including the ubiquitous arrowroot, or "coontie," plant for which he recorded and provided a sketch in his diary (Taylor and Norman 2002:91-92).

In the late-1780s, Fish made plans to move to the Bahamas Islands "with no means to exist except a few slaves" and to establish valid claims with the English or Spanish governments for his former vast estate. But, he died on 8 February 1790 before accomplishing his task (Schafer 2001:261-262). His estranged wife, son, and daughter then resided at New Providence Island, where Jesse Fish, Jr. developed a plantation (Schafer 2001:262). On the eve of Jesse Fish's death, a contemporary Spanish appraisal of Fish and El Vergel asserted "He had no jewels or furniture of value and the house which he inhabits on Anastasia Island is in such a state of deterioration that it does not provide adequate protection against the inclemencies of the weather" (Gold 1973:17). For losses associated with the English withdrawal from East Florida, Jesse Fish, Jr. submitted a claim for £1175 associated with some of his father's former holdings, including 416 acres and supporting buildings along the Matanzas River, 800 acres with buildings near Mosa Creek, and 650 additional acres. For those losses, the English Crown awarded £735 to Jesse Fish, Jr. (Siebert 1929 2:276, 365).

Despite the settlement, Fish's heirs struggled to recoup their property losses in St. Augustine during the second Spanish period. Late in the interval, headright and service grants accounted for a large number of acres furnished to settlers and loyal subjects of Spain. Between 1815 and 1818, the Crown awarded seventy-eight headright grants amounting to 47,496 acres, or twenty-two percent of all grants later confirmed by the U. S. Board of Land Commissioners. In contrast, service grants to veterans during the same four years amounted to 322,884 acres, or more property than all the headright grants awarded during the entire second Spanish period. Eighteen individuals received most of the property, and eleven received more than 10,000 acres each during those four years (Hoffman 2002:269-271).

History has characterized Jesse Fish as a poor record keeper, among other labels. In retirement and self-imposed seclusion at El Vergel, Fish permitted his brother-in-law, Jacobus Kip, to handle most of his property and legal transactions. In the decade before his death, Fish avoided contact with his wife and his family. Kip died in the late-1780s, leaving few records of his activities, or those conducted on behalf of Fish. Although Governor Zespedes criticized Fish for his indolent character and lethargy, he believed that Kip had embezzled much of the proceeds from sale of Fish's property. Zespedes believed that Fish could have amassed a considerable fortune if he had carefully applied himself to his business interests instead of relying on Kip (Gold 1973:15-16). Although the transactions were later pieced together by Luciano de Herrera, who paid most of Fish's creditors, Fish remained in debt at his death in 1790 (Kingston 1987:68).

Fish was buried at El Vergel, in part, because Spanish officials would not permit the interment of non-Catholics in the City of St. Augustine. Perhaps because of Fish's alleged poor record keeping, historians have not uncovered an eighteenth century map or plans of El Vergel prepared by Fish. He left no record of how his plantation was organized and developed over time with buildings, fields, and groves. Most studies of El Vergel's built fabric have relied upon eighteenth and nineteenth century maps of St. Augustine and its vicinity. Apparently, Sarah Fish made repairs to the main dwelling sometime after 1790 (Kingston 1978:72). John Leslie and Thomas Franca, who

were appointed guardians to Jesse Fish, Jr., found Fish's estate heavily encumbered by debt. As part of a petition for lands at Todd's Fields, Jesse Fish, Jr. claimed he owned eight slaves (WPA 1940 3:102). But, in 1792, Governor Quesada declared that Jesse Fish, Jr. had renounced his claim to El Vergel, Anastasia Island, and other East Florida properties when he sailed for England. That year, the governor ordered El Vergel sold at auction (Kingston 1987:71, 73).

In January 1792, Governor Quesada appointed Manual Solana and Roque Leonardy as valuers of El Vergel. They enumerated on the plantation 540 large orange trees; 300 small bearing trees; 250 trees to transplant; 400 sour orange trees; 120 medlar, or crab apple, trees; 80 pomegranate trees; 75 fig trees; 70 peach trees; and "a plantation of lime trees" (WPA 1940 1:123). The governor eventually accepted Jesse Fish, Jr.'s bid for the orange groves. But, in executing the deed the property lines were not identified. Jesse Fish, Jr. and his guardians became aware of this oversight only after residents of St. Augustine began harvesting trees from Anastasia Island, and they were left without any legal recourse. Although Fish attempted to have the original boundaries of the plantation restored, it was ruled that he possessed only the rights to the fruit trees, and not the property itself. In 1794, Sarah Fish found her son, Jesse Fish, Jr., residing in a small cottage in one of the groves. Often traveling between the Bahamas, upcountry South Carolina, and St. Augustine, Sarah Fish often referred to herself as a "poor wanderer" (Kingston 1987:71).

In June 1795, Colonel Morales, acting on behalf of Governor Quesada, granted the original 10,000 acres on Anastasia Island to Jesse Fish, Jr., with the exception of the King's Quarry. The Spanish Crown had utilized the coquina quarries since the seventeenth century to assemble and repair the Castillo and government buildings, and permitted residents to use quarried coquina to build and repair their homes, especially after sieges of Moore and Oglethorpe in 1702 and 1740, respectively. It is likely that Jesse Fish also harvested coquina from the quarries to assemble the buildings and structures at El Vergel. Various officials helped establish the boundaries of the royal quarry, including Mariano de la Rocque; Manuel Solano; José Lorente, chief master of the royal works; Tadeo Arribas, officer of the royal comptroller's office; and José de Zubizarreta, the royal notary. They staked the boundaries of the royal quarry, separating them from the property conveyed to Fish (Kingston 1987:71, 73-74; Allen and Dickins 1859 4:703).

In December 1796, Jesse Fish, Jr. testified that at El Vergel "The land will not produce crops of any kind and the trees are drying up" (WPA 1940 1:121). He spent most of his adult life with Clarrisa, a former West Indian slave with whom he reared seven children but never married. Jesse and Clarrisa appear to have lived in the main house at El Vergel during the opening decade of the nineteenth century (Kingston 1987:79). In the summer of 1812, Jesse Fish, Jr. was found dead with his horse, apparently victims of a lightning strike. He was found after a violent storm "which he had tried to avert by an umbrella with large brass mountings, which it is confidently believed caused his death" (Kingston 1987:79).

In the early nineteenth century, the United States sought to acquire Florida from Spain. The largely undeveloped area tempted the expansionist government and private land speculators lobbied in Washington for its acquisition. Over the years, Florida had presented the federal government with numerous problems. The area provided a haven for runaway slaves and Seminole Indians, who became involved in armed conflicts with settlers residing in Georgia and Alabama. Florida also provided a setting for contraband trade and slave smuggling. Due to its strategic geographic

location, the Spanish province was perceived by the government to pose a threat to national security. The area could serve as a base for attacks against the United States if acquired by a foreign power, particularly England. When Andrew Jackson invaded Florida during the First Seminole War (1815-1818), it became clear that Spain could no longer hold or control Florida. Incidents at Amelia Island and elsewhere in East Florida in 1812 and 1817 disrupted negotiations between Spain and the United States over acquisition of Florida. In 1819, mounting pressure from the United States forced the signing of the Adams-Onís Treaty, which transferred power in 1821 (Dovell 1952 1:169-170).

In 1821, the United States government created the Territory of Florida and appointed Andrew Jackson military governor. Jackson initiated the Americanization of Florida, naming Tallahassee the seat of the territorial government and providing for county courts and trials by jury. Although St. Augustine lost its political influence as capital of the province of East Florida, it became the seat of government for St. Johns County. Using the Suwannee River as the dividing line, Jackson created Escambia County out of the former West Florida province and St. Johns County out of the former East Florida province (WPA 1936).

In 1822, the Congress appointed a board of land commissioners that either confirmed or rejected private claims in Florida. A process that often included translating Spanish documents, obtaining old surveys from archives, and deposing witnesses, the reviewing of claims slowed the public survey and land sales by the territorial and federal governments. Still, by the end of 1825, the East Florida commissioners had confirmed 325 claims and rejected sixty-one others. The Congress furnished final adjudication for eighty-eight other claims that consisted of 3,000 or more acres (Tebeau 1971:124).

After her son's death in 1812, Sarah Warner Fish became sole owner of El Vergel. By 1824, she had buried her husband, both their children, a sister, and a grandchild. She provided Clarrisa with property in what became northern Flagler County (Kingston 1987:79-80). In August 1823, Sarah Fish filed a claim for 10,000 acres on Anastasia Island with the U. S. Board of Land Commissioners. The dossier contained references to the 1760s, and recounted many of Jesse Fish's activities in St. Augustine. Sarah Fish's death in 1824, however, complicated the confirmation of the claim. Another grandchild, Jessica, married Charles Furman in 1826, but probably never visited El Vergel after the death of her grandmother. Jessica died in 1827, and her husband never remarried and remained in South Carolina most of the rest of his life (Kingston 1987:82-83). Provided with voluminous documentation and testimonies, the board recommended the claim of the heirs of Jesse Fish to the Congress in December 1825. In May 1828, the Congress confirmed Anastasia Island to the heirs of Sarah Fish, who included Bolivar Furman, Charles Furman, Irvine Furman, and J. R. Furman. That ruling, however, would be rejected in the 1890s (Allen and Dickins 1859:4:594-595, 697-705; WPA 1940:1:127).

In the 1820s, the federal government began the process of surveying the public lands and private claims throughout Florida. Surveyor-General Robert Butler initiated surveys in Tallahassee in 1824, and public land offices launched land sales at the territorial capital in 1825 and from St. Augustine in 1826. Surveyors laid out range and township lines, then filled in those areas with the sections and private claims associated with Spanish land grants. Many of the private claims around St. Augustine, including those in Township 7 South and Range 30 East, were surveyed in the



1830s. In June 1834, surveying contracts were established with Benjamin Clements, Paul McCormick, and Frederick Ming for "Nine hundred and fifty Miles of the Public Land and private Land claims in Districts E, and F, as per Diagram, embracing the fractions around the City of St. Augustine and the Island of Anastasia. To be completed within twelve months" (Carter 1956-1960 25:54). The initial surveys of the township, range, and section lines were completed in 1835, and Surveyor-General Robert Butler published the plat that year (Figures 2.8 and 2.9). Because Fish's heirs had not complied with all of the requirements for their claim to Anastasia Island, the surveyors included Fish Island in sectional lands divided into lots two, three, and six in Section 29, rather than placing it in a private claim.

Numerous reports and apocryphal and anecdotal stories about Jesse Fish appeared in books and newspapers within several decades of his death. In 1830, surveyor G. I. F. Clarke (1774-1836) refuted claims that Florida oranges did not ship well to markets in the Northeast. Between 1811 and 1821, Clarke knew East Florida perhaps better than any person because he had supervised every survey for the Spanish Crown then prepared in the province. Nine years into Florida's territorial period, Clarke reminded the readers of the *Southern Agriculturist* of the "careful manner in which Jesse Fish, Sr., owner of El Vergel on Anastasia Island before, during, and after the British regime, picked his oranges and shipped them safely as presents to his London friends" (Hill 1943:240). In 1837, John Lee Williams recorded that the Spanish had granted Anastasia Island to Fish, and that "his heirs are still in possession. It contains a few hundred acres of excellent land, a part of which is improved in a fine orange grove" (Williams 1837:44). In 1839, in what may be a less authentic account associated with Fish Island, the *New York Mirror* published a brief story about how "the Indian slave of Mr. Fish of St. Anastasia Island took revenge on the other Indians who killed his wife and children" (*New York Mirror*, 23 March 1839).

Notwithstanding an emerging legendary image of Jesse Fish, land claims, counter claims, and litigation stalled the issuance of clear title to Anastasia Island to Fish's heirs during the territorial, statehood, and late nineteenth century period. In 1887, St. Augustine attorney William W. Dewhurst, working on behalf of the St. Augustine & South Beach Railway Company, Milo S. Carter, and Moses R. Bean, submitted a petition to protect the previously confirmed claim of Lorenzo Rodriguez on Anastasia Island, which stood northeast of Escolia Creek and the main house at El Vergel (WPA 1940 1:130). Although Venancio Sanchez of St. Augustine served as Charles Furman's agent in St. Augustine, Furman was unable to complete the technical requirements to the claim before his death in 1872 (WPA 1940 1:127, 131; Kingston 1987:82-83).

In 1887, W. S. Walker and James Lowndes, attorneys representing the surviving Furman interests, offered a new angle to the ownership conundrum at Anastasia Island, when they requested the surveyor-general to consult government surveys. Lowndes specifically asked if a survey had been prepared "showing that Anastasia Island does not exceed 5,000 acres. Our position is, that if the island does not exceed one league in area, no relinquishment is required of the claimants." Federal statutes then required grantees of large grants to accept one league of land in lieu of the whole (WPA 1940 1:127, 130-131).

# *Map Township 7 of Range 30 E. and District East Sec 10 of Florida*

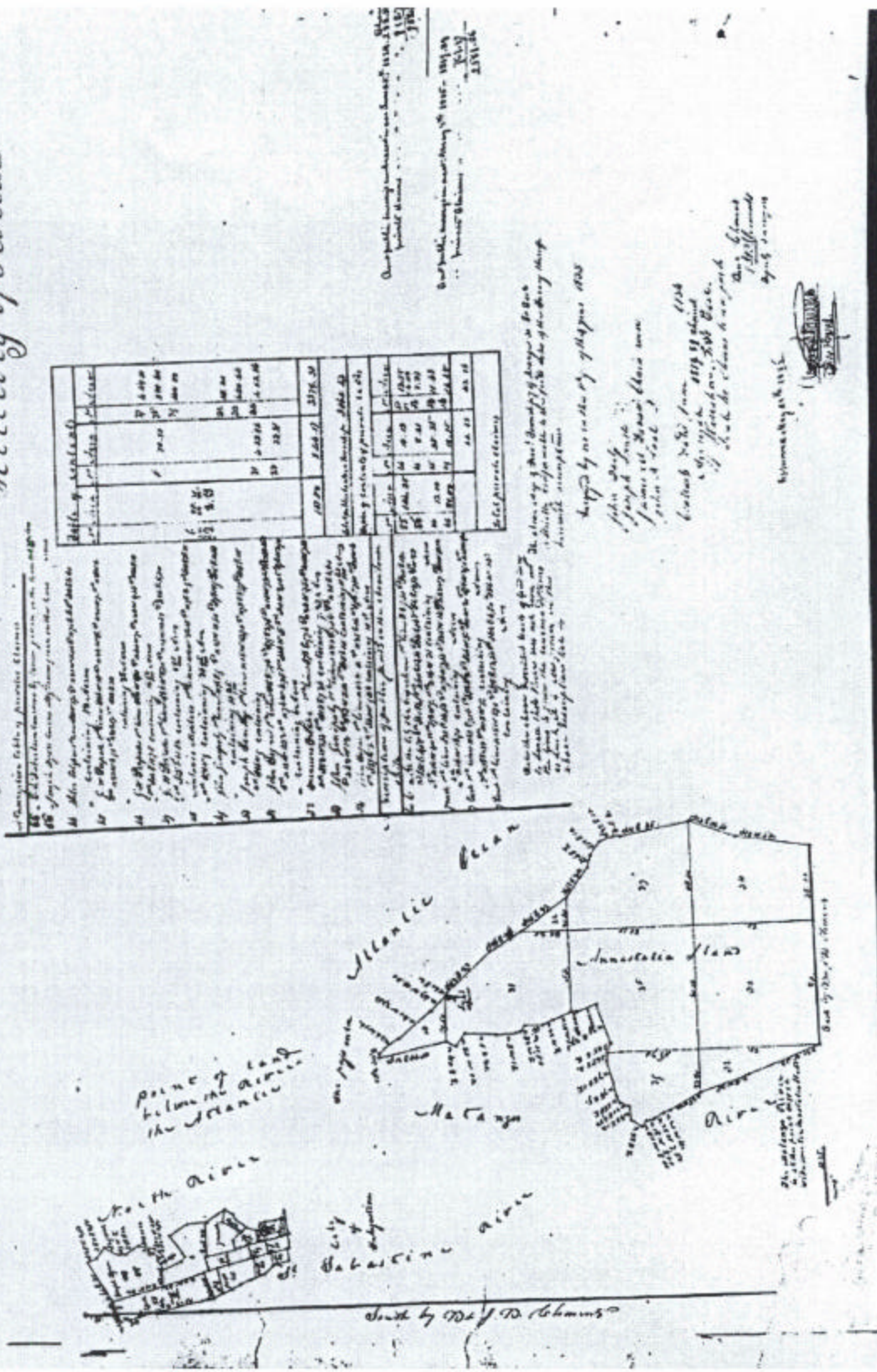


Figure: 2.8  
 Project: EJ00313.03  
 Date: March 2004

Township 7 South, Range 30 East (Randolph 1835)  
**Fish Island**  
 St. Johns County, Florida





**TOWNSHIP, No 7 RANGE, No 30 S. E.**

**Land District East**

**County of Florida**

Section	Area	Owner	Remarks
1	36.00	State of Florida	Public Land
2	36.00	State of Florida	Public Land
3	36.00	State of Florida	Public Land
4	36.00	State of Florida	Public Land
5	36.00	State of Florida	Public Land
6	36.00	State of Florida	Public Land
7	36.00	State of Florida	Public Land
8	36.00	State of Florida	Public Land
9	36.00	State of Florida	Public Land
10	36.00	State of Florida	Public Land
11	36.00	State of Florida	Public Land
12	36.00	State of Florida	Public Land
13	36.00	State of Florida	Public Land
14	36.00	State of Florida	Public Land
15	36.00	State of Florida	Public Land
16	36.00	State of Florida	Public Land
17	36.00	State of Florida	Public Land
18	36.00	State of Florida	Public Land
19	36.00	State of Florida	Public Land
20	36.00	State of Florida	Public Land
21	36.00	State of Florida	Public Land
22	36.00	State of Florida	Public Land
23	36.00	State of Florida	Public Land
24	36.00	State of Florida	Public Land
25	36.00	State of Florida	Public Land
26	36.00	State of Florida	Public Land
27	36.00	State of Florida	Public Land
28	36.00	State of Florida	Public Land
29	36.00	State of Florida	Public Land
30	36.00	State of Florida	Public Land



Section	Area	Owner	Remarks
1	36.00	State of Florida	Public Land
2	36.00	State of Florida	Public Land
3	36.00	State of Florida	Public Land
4	36.00	State of Florida	Public Land
5	36.00	State of Florida	Public Land
6	36.00	State of Florida	Public Land
7	36.00	State of Florida	Public Land
8	36.00	State of Florida	Public Land
9	36.00	State of Florida	Public Land
10	36.00	State of Florida	Public Land
11	36.00	State of Florida	Public Land
12	36.00	State of Florida	Public Land
13	36.00	State of Florida	Public Land
14	36.00	State of Florida	Public Land
15	36.00	State of Florida	Public Land
16	36.00	State of Florida	Public Land
17	36.00	State of Florida	Public Land
18	36.00	State of Florida	Public Land
19	36.00	State of Florida	Public Land
20	36.00	State of Florida	Public Land
21	36.00	State of Florida	Public Land
22	36.00	State of Florida	Public Land
23	36.00	State of Florida	Public Land
24	36.00	State of Florida	Public Land
25	36.00	State of Florida	Public Land
26	36.00	State of Florida	Public Land
27	36.00	State of Florida	Public Land
28	36.00	State of Florida	Public Land
29	36.00	State of Florida	Public Land
30	36.00	State of Florida	Public Land

Section	Area	Owner	Remarks
1	36.00	State of Florida	Public Land
2	36.00	State of Florida	Public Land
3	36.00	State of Florida	Public Land
4	36.00	State of Florida	Public Land
5	36.00	State of Florida	Public Land
6	36.00	State of Florida	Public Land
7	36.00	State of Florida	Public Land
8	36.00	State of Florida	Public Land
9	36.00	State of Florida	Public Land
10	36.00	State of Florida	Public Land
11	36.00	State of Florida	Public Land
12	36.00	State of Florida	Public Land
13	36.00	State of Florida	Public Land
14	36.00	State of Florida	Public Land
15	36.00	State of Florida	Public Land
16	36.00	State of Florida	Public Land
17	36.00	State of Florida	Public Land
18	36.00	State of Florida	Public Land
19	36.00	State of Florida	Public Land
20	36.00	State of Florida	Public Land
21	36.00	State of Florida	Public Land
22	36.00	State of Florida	Public Land
23	36.00	State of Florida	Public Land
24	36.00	State of Florida	Public Land
25	36.00	State of Florida	Public Land
26	36.00	State of Florida	Public Land
27	36.00	State of Florida	Public Land
28	36.00	State of Florida	Public Land
29	36.00	State of Florida	Public Land
30	36.00	State of Florida	Public Land

Map of Fish Island, showing the layout of the island and the surrounding water. The island is divided into sections, and the water is labeled as the North River and South River. The map is dated 1836 and is a copy of the original map.

Township 7 South, Range 30 East (Randolph 1836)

**Fish Island**

St. Johns County, Florida

Figure: 2.9

Project: EJ00313.03

Date: March 2004



The failure of Fish's heirs to determine the amount of land contained on Anastasia Island, select the lands amounting to a league, and return the remainder to the federal government precipitated the closure to the conundrum, which amounted to the loss of their island holdings to public reserves. In 1893, "Secretary of the Interior Smith affirmed the decision of the commissioner of the general land office in refusing to recognize the validity of the claim of the heirs of Jesse Fish to Anastasia Island, in the State of Florida." In the same way that Jesse Fish had been unable to retain his holdings in St. Augustine after the Spanish returned in 1784, his heirs lost the island decades later through their alleged inaction and a subsequent ruling by the general land office. In an intriguing land title dispute that spanned decades, Sarah Fish's petition to the U. S. Board of Land Commissioners for Jesse Fish's holdings on Anastasia Island had been confirmed by the board and later by the Congress, but the heirs failed to respond to the additional legal requirement of relinquishing all lands exceeding one square league (Jesse Fish File, SAHSRL; WPA 1940 1:127, 130-131). In contrast, the board confirmed the claims of Jesse Fish's heirs to 500 acres at Todd's Fields at the head of the Matanzas River and fifteen lots in St. Augustine (WPA 1940 3:102-106).

Deputy surveyor A. M. Randolph completed the surveys of Township 7 South, Range 30 East in 1850, part of which included reconciling earlier surveys of Anastasia Island. Located northeast of Fish Island, the Lorenzo Rodrigue and Francisco X. Sanchez grants were the only private claims on the portion of Anastasia Island contained within the township (Putnam 1851). Randolph divided Section 29 into six lots with Fish Island occupying parts of lots two, three, and six. Although Randolph provided an extensive description in his field notes of "island Comatchis" farther north, he neither defined the boundaries of Fish Island in his field notes, nor labeled or defined the island on the map of the township. Indeed, Randolph's characterizations of Section 29 and the sections surrounding the location of Fish Island largely consisted of "no timber," "marsh," and "sand hills, scrub, and marsh." Bereft of any indications of man-made features in or around the section, Randolph's field notes neither referenced the Fish house nor tomb, nor any remaining citrus trees, groves, or fields (Randolph 1850). The irregularly shaped section was divided into six lots, none of which conformed to the contours of Fish Island and none of which was conveyed out of public lands during the antebellum period. In 1851, Surveyor-General Benjamin A. Putnam issued the completed plat of Township 7 South, Range 30 East (Figure 2.10) (DEP 1850-1906 Tract Book T 7 S, R 30 E).

In 1859 and 1860, the U. S. Coast Survey prepared a survey of St. Augustine and vicinity. (Figure 2.11) The surveys were conducted under the direction of F. W. Dorr, an engineer in the Corps of Engineers. Often referred to as the "Dorr map," the resource indicates the extent of the remaining features at El Vergel at the middle of the nineteenth century, approximately seventy-five years after the publication of the Des Barres map. One of the first federal cartographic resources to identify "Fish's Island" as a place name, the map depicts a system of paths or roads, several buildings, and fields, enclosures, or fences at El Vergel (U. S. Coast Survey 1860). Subsequent versions of the map appeared in 1862 and again in 1879 with minor revisions as part of the National Board of Health's annual report (Figure 2.12) (U. S. Coast Survey 1862-1879).

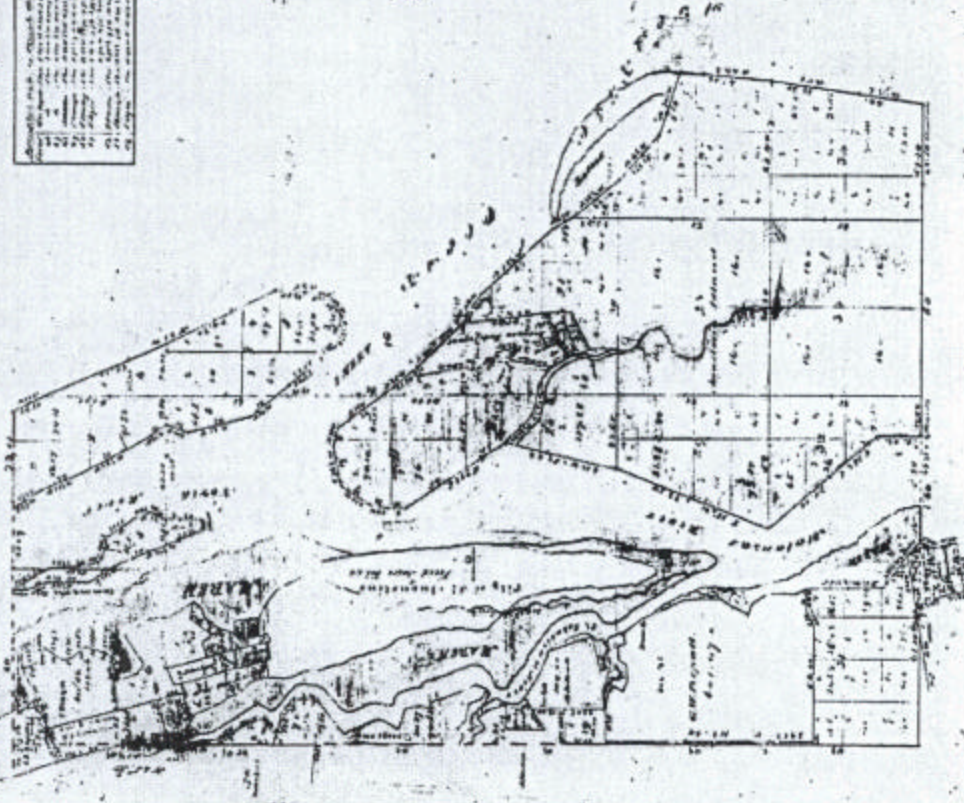
In the late twentieth century, a student of Fish Island secured a copy of the 1859 "Dorr map" and suggested various uses for the built environment on the island. (Figure 2.13) The researcher counted twelve buildings. Features included a landing and ditch across from the mouth of the St. Sebastian Creek; the main house; 8 small structures cabins/prives; ditching for water control; one



T. 7 S. - R. 30 E.

East Florida.

X



**Table 1: Property Owners**

Section	Owner	Acres
1	John A. Smith	10.00
2	John A. Smith	10.00
3	John A. Smith	10.00
4	John A. Smith	10.00
5	John A. Smith	10.00
6	John A. Smith	10.00
7	John A. Smith	10.00
8	John A. Smith	10.00
9	John A. Smith	10.00
10	John A. Smith	10.00
11	John A. Smith	10.00
12	John A. Smith	10.00
13	John A. Smith	10.00
14	John A. Smith	10.00
15	John A. Smith	10.00
16	John A. Smith	10.00
17	John A. Smith	10.00
18	John A. Smith	10.00
19	John A. Smith	10.00
20	John A. Smith	10.00
21	John A. Smith	10.00
22	John A. Smith	10.00
23	John A. Smith	10.00
24	John A. Smith	10.00
25	John A. Smith	10.00
26	John A. Smith	10.00
27	John A. Smith	10.00
28	John A. Smith	10.00
29	John A. Smith	10.00
30	John A. Smith	10.00
31	John A. Smith	10.00
32	John A. Smith	10.00
33	John A. Smith	10.00
34	John A. Smith	10.00
35	John A. Smith	10.00
36	John A. Smith	10.00

**Table 2: Property Owners**

Section	Owner	Acres
1	John A. Smith	10.00
2	John A. Smith	10.00
3	John A. Smith	10.00
4	John A. Smith	10.00
5	John A. Smith	10.00
6	John A. Smith	10.00
7	John A. Smith	10.00
8	John A. Smith	10.00
9	John A. Smith	10.00
10	John A. Smith	10.00
11	John A. Smith	10.00
12	John A. Smith	10.00
13	John A. Smith	10.00
14	John A. Smith	10.00
15	John A. Smith	10.00
16	John A. Smith	10.00
17	John A. Smith	10.00
18	John A. Smith	10.00
19	John A. Smith	10.00
20	John A. Smith	10.00
21	John A. Smith	10.00
22	John A. Smith	10.00
23	John A. Smith	10.00
24	John A. Smith	10.00
25	John A. Smith	10.00
26	John A. Smith	10.00
27	John A. Smith	10.00
28	John A. Smith	10.00
29	John A. Smith	10.00
30	John A. Smith	10.00
31	John A. Smith	10.00
32	John A. Smith	10.00
33	John A. Smith	10.00
34	John A. Smith	10.00
35	John A. Smith	10.00
36	John A. Smith	10.00

**Table 3: Property Owners**

Section	Owner	Acres
1	John A. Smith	10.00
2	John A. Smith	10.00
3	John A. Smith	10.00
4	John A. Smith	10.00
5	John A. Smith	10.00
6	John A. Smith	10.00
7	John A. Smith	10.00
8	John A. Smith	10.00
9	John A. Smith	10.00
10	John A. Smith	10.00
11	John A. Smith	10.00
12	John A. Smith	10.00
13	John A. Smith	10.00
14	John A. Smith	10.00
15	John A. Smith	10.00
16	John A. Smith	10.00
17	John A. Smith	10.00
18	John A. Smith	10.00
19	John A. Smith	10.00
20	John A. Smith	10.00
21	John A. Smith	10.00
22	John A. Smith	10.00
23	John A. Smith	10.00
24	John A. Smith	10.00
25	John A. Smith	10.00
26	John A. Smith	10.00
27	John A. Smith	10.00
28	John A. Smith	10.00
29	John A. Smith	10.00
30	John A. Smith	10.00
31	John A. Smith	10.00
32	John A. Smith	10.00
33	John A. Smith	10.00
34	John A. Smith	10.00
35	John A. Smith	10.00
36	John A. Smith	10.00

**Table 4: Property Owners**

Section	Owner	Acres
1	John A. Smith	10.00
2	John A. Smith	10.00
3	John A. Smith	10.00
4	John A. Smith	10.00
5	John A. Smith	10.00
6	John A. Smith	10.00
7	John A. Smith	10.00
8	John A. Smith	10.00
9	John A. Smith	10.00
10	John A. Smith	10.00
11	John A. Smith	10.00
12	John A. Smith	10.00
13	John A. Smith	10.00
14	John A. Smith	10.00
15	John A. Smith	10.00
16	John A. Smith	10.00
17	John A. Smith	10.00
18	John A. Smith	10.00
19	John A. Smith	10.00
20	John A. Smith	10.00
21	John A. Smith	10.00
22	John A. Smith	10.00
23	John A. Smith	10.00
24	John A. Smith	10.00
25	John A. Smith	10.00
26	John A. Smith	10.00
27	John A. Smith	10.00
28	John A. Smith	10.00
29	John A. Smith	10.00
30	John A. Smith	10.00
31	John A. Smith	10.00
32	John A. Smith	10.00
33	John A. Smith	10.00
34	John A. Smith	10.00
35	John A. Smith	10.00
36	John A. Smith	10.00

**Table 5: Property Owners**

Section	Owner	Acres
1	John A. Smith	10.00
2	John A. Smith	10.00
3	John A. Smith	10.00
4	John A. Smith	10.00
5	John A. Smith	10.00
6	John A. Smith	10.00
7	John A. Smith	10.00
8	John A. Smith	10.00
9	John A. Smith	10.00
10	John A. Smith	10.00
11	John A. Smith	10.00
12	John A. Smith	10.00
13	John A. Smith	10.00
14	John A. Smith	10.00
15	John A. Smith	10.00
16	John A. Smith	10.00
17	John A. Smith	10.00
18	John A. Smith	10.00
19	John A. Smith	10.00
20	John A. Smith	10.00
21	John A. Smith	10.00
22	John A. Smith	10.00
23	John A. Smith	10.00
24	John A. Smith	10.00
25	John A. Smith	10.00
26	John A. Smith	10.00
27	John A. Smith	10.00
28	John A. Smith	10.00
29	John A. Smith	10.00
30	John A. Smith	10.00
31	John A. Smith	10.00
32	John A. Smith	10.00
33	John A. Smith	10.00
34	John A. Smith	10.00
35	John A. Smith	10.00
36	John A. Smith	10.00

Set to the Board for the purpose of the Commission, dated July 19, 1911.

By the Board of Commissioners, dated July 19, 1911.  
 The Board of Commissioners, of the State of Florida, do hereby certify that the above is a true and correct copy of the original as the same appears in the files of the Board of Commissioners, of the State of Florida, at the City of Tallahassee, this 19th day of July, 1911.  
 J. B. Smith, Secretary.

Commissioner, Commissioned with this work and approved  
 J. B. Smith, Secretary.

Township 7 South, Range 30 East (Putnam 1851)

**Fish Island**

St. Johns County, Florida

Figure: 2.10  
 Project: EJ00313.03  
 Date: March 2004







Figure: 2.11

Project: EJ00313.03

Date: March 2004

*San Augustine And Vicinity, East Florida (Dorr 1860)*

## **Fish Island**

St. Johns County, Florida



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Preliminary Chart of St. Augustine Harbor  
(U.S. Coast Survey 1862 & 1879)

# **Fish Island**

St. Johns County, Florida

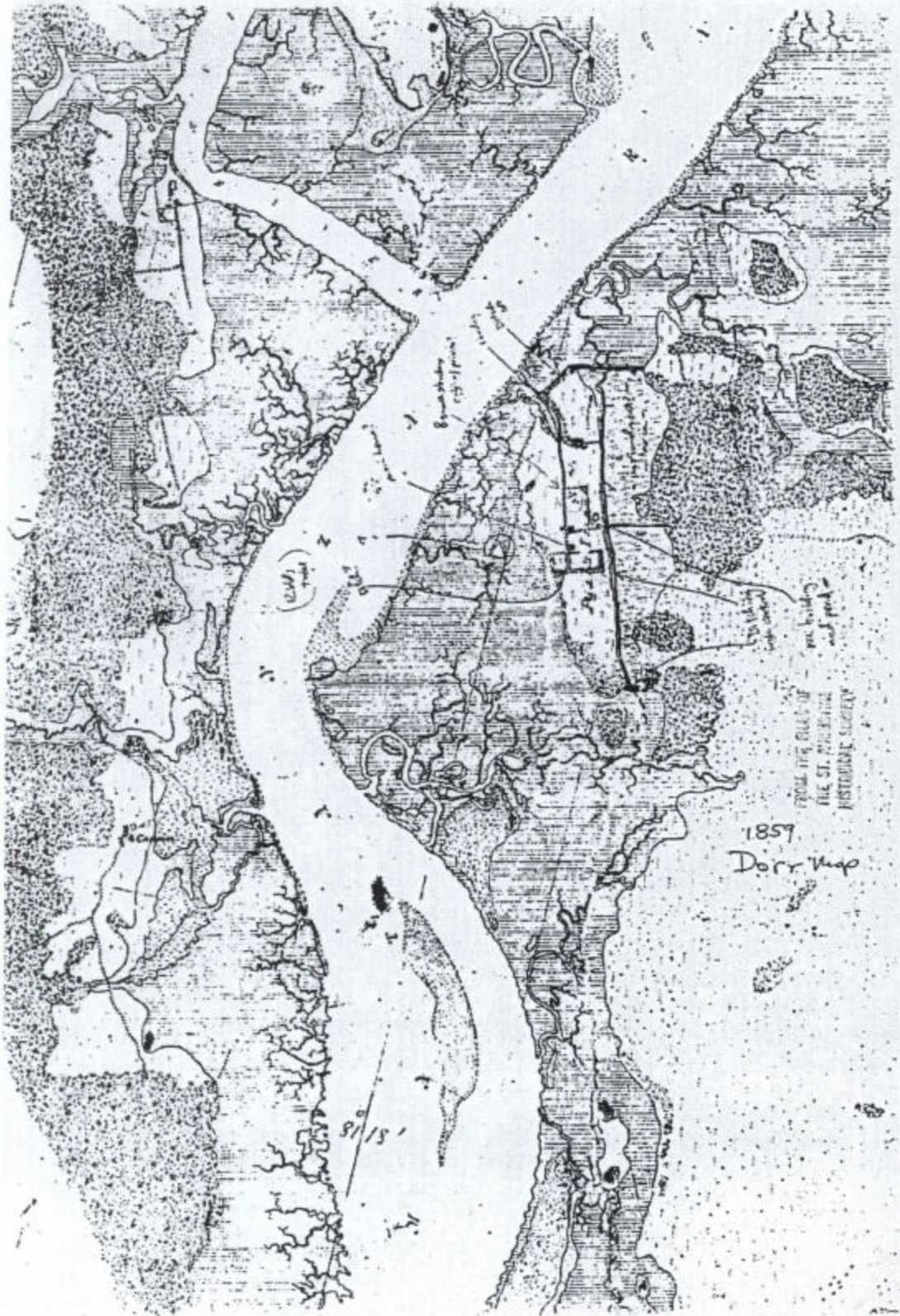
Figure: 2.12

Project: EJ00313.03

Date: March 2004







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San Augustine and Vicinity, East Florida (Dorr 1860)  
**Fish Island**  
St. Johns County, Florida

Figure: 2.13

Project: EJ00313.03

Date: March 2004

building and pond; and the impoundments area. A copy of the marked map was deposited in the holdings of the St. Augustine Historical Society Research Library (Fish Island File SAHSRL).

### Fish Island Late-Nineteenth Century Context

Despite its isolated location from the nation's major transportation routes, nineteenth-century Florida attracted vacationing northerners, most of whom toured St. Augustine. Beyond travel experiences, many visitors sought investment opportunities, prompting a flurry of Florida guidebooks. Medical doctors composed some of these guides, most of which furnished an overview of St. Augustine. Philadelphia physician and medical journal editor Daniel Brinton published one of the first in 1869, *A Guide-Book of Florida and the South for Tourists, Invalids and Emigrants*. He described St. Augustine as "built on a small Peninsula, between the St. Sebastian River, itself an arm of the sea, and the Bay... On the east is the harbor, a sheet of water about eight fathoms in depth, known as the Matanzas River. It is separated from the ocean by Anastasia, or Fish Island, a narrow tract of land about fourteen miles long." Although Brinton described various buildings in St. Augustine, he remained silent about past activities at Fish Island (Brinton 1869:66).

Writing for *Harper's New Monthly Magazine* in 1874 and 1875, Constance Fenimore Woolson (Figure 2.14) described the Ancient City and Anastasia Island through the lenses of fictional characters from New York City. Born in 1848 in Claremont, New York, the great-niece of James Fenimore Cooper received her education at the Young Ladies' Seminary of Cleveland, Ohio, and Madam Chegaray's French School in New York City. Her early literary efforts appeared in Episcopalian Church periodicals. After the death of her father in 1869, she launched her secular writing career with her first works appearing in July 1870 in *Harper's Magazine*. In 1873, responding to her mother's failing health, she and her surviving parent moved to the American South. They spent five winters "at St. Augustine and on an island in the St. Johns River, their summers being spent in the mountain regions of the Southern States." Most of Woolson's literary works were novels and articles in popular periodicals, including *Anne*, "East Angels," "Happy Valley," and "Rodman the Keeper." The *New York Times* characterized her works as stories, sketches, and poems in "charming profusion." Referring to *Anne*, which appeared in 1882 and placed her at the front ranks of American writers, the *New York Nation* thought Woolson had "discovered so new a field in the little, lonely military station on the far island of the North. It suggests combination and possibilities quite beyond the common routine of American novels." In 1879, Woolson's mother died, after which the author moved to Europe, residing in England, Germany, Italy, and Switzerland. She died in 1894 in Venice, and was buried next to the renowned author Shelley (*New York Times*, 25 January, 1 February 1894; White 1898:1:369).

Woolson's "The Ancient City" appeared in print during her second winter in Florida. *Harper's New Monthly Magazine* published it in two parts in December 1874 and January 1875. An important late nineteenth century romanticized literary excursion of St. Augustine, her narrative unfolded with Niece Martha and her Aunt Diana, Iris Carew, John Hoffinan, Professor Macquoid, and Sara St. John entering El Vergel:





Figure 2.14: Constance Fenimore Woolson (White 1898)



the enchanted domain [where] it seemed to be a large plantation run to waste; symmetrical fields surrounded by high hedges of sour orange, loaded with its fruit; old furrows still visible in the never-freezing ground; everywhere traces of careful labor and cultivation, which had made the sandy island blossom as a rose. In the centre of a broad lawn were the ruins of a mansion, the white chimney alone standing, like a monument to the past. Beyond, a path led down to a circle of trees with even, dense foliage; there, in the centre, shut out from the glare of the sunshine, alone in the greenery, stood a solitary tomb, massive and dark, without date or inscription save what the little fingers of lichen had written. We stood around in silence, and presently another pleasure party came down the path and joined us--gay young girls with sprays of orange blossoms in their hats, young men carrying trailing wreaths of yellow jasmine. Together we filled the green tree circle; and one of the strangers, a fair young girl, moved by a sudden impulse, stepped forward and laid a spray of jasmine on the lonely tomb (Woolson 1874:16-17).

"Et in Arcadia ego," said John, who stood behind me. "Do you remember that picture of the gay flower-decked arcadians coming through a forest with song and laughter, and finding there a solitary tomb with that inscription? This is Arcadia, and we too have found the tomb." "What a lovely wild old place," said Iris. "What is its history? Does anybody know?" "It has not been occupied for nearly a century," said Aunt Diana. "Who would have expected traces of such careful cultivation down on this remote island?" I said, as a new vista of symmetrical fields opened out on one side. "There you make the common mistake of all Northerners, Miss Martha," said John Hoffman. "Because the country is desolate and thinly settled, you suppose it to be also wild and new, like the Western States and Territories. You forget how long this far peninsula has been known to the white man. These shores were settled more than a century before Plymouth or Jamestown, and you can scarcely go out in any direction around St. Augustine without coming upon old groves of orange and fig trees, a ruined stone wall, or fallen chimney. Poor Florida! she is full of deserted plantations" (Woolson 1874:16-17).

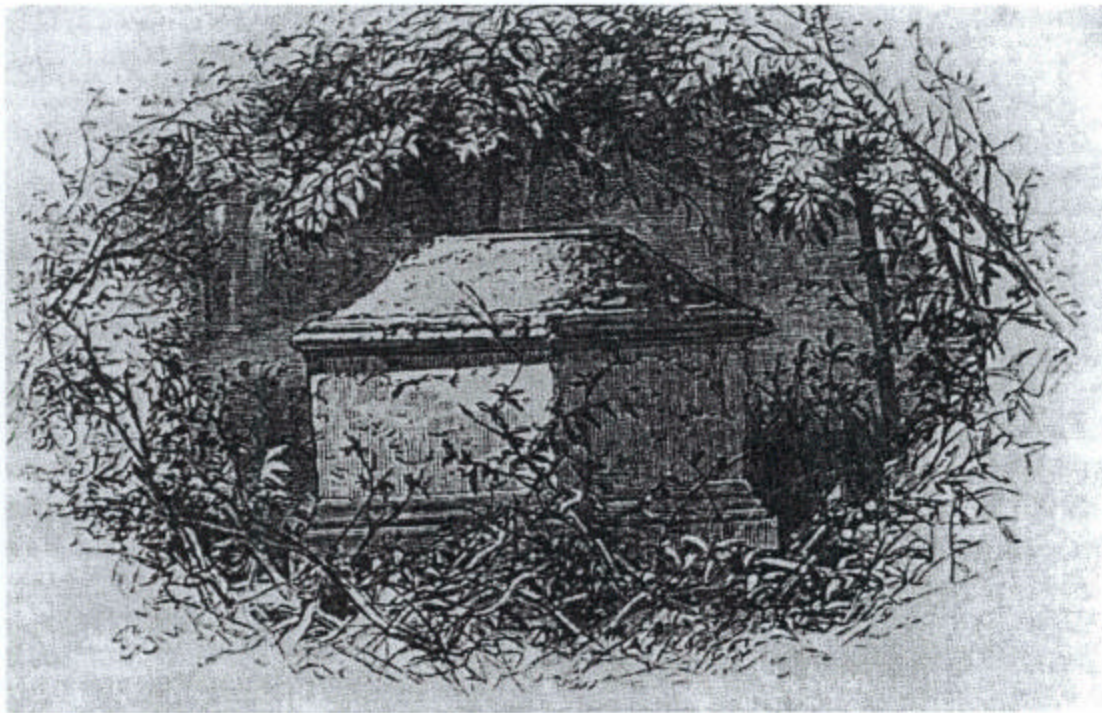
"But does any one know the story of the place?" repeated Iris, who preferred any diversion to Mokes's solo.

"Why insist on digging it up?" said Sara. "Let it rest in the purple haze of the past. The place has not been occupied for a hundred years. We see this beautiful orange walk; yonder is a solitary tomb. Can we not fill out these shadowy borders without the aid of prosaic detail?"

Briefly shifting her narrative to the Matanzas River and St. Augustine Lighthouse, Woolson then mentioned "a second tomb farther down the island, it is even more venerable than the first; a square inclosure of coquina, out of which grows an ancient cedar tree which was probably planted, a mere slip, after the grave was closed" (Woolson 1874:19). She returned to contemporary conditions at El Vergel and "some real practical Arcadians, who enjoy life as Nature intended. Near the ruins of the mansion we found the Arcadians, a young man with his wife and child, living in a small out-building which might have been a cow-house. It was not more than ten feet square, the roof had fallen in, and was replaced by a rude thatch of palmetto leaves; there was no window of any kind, no floor save the sand, and for a door only an old coverlet hung up and tied back like a

curtain. Within we could see a low settle-bed with some ragged coverings, a stool, powder, shot, and fishing tackle hung up on one side, and an old calico dress on the other; without was a table under a tree, a cupboard hung on the outside of the house, containing a few dishes, and the ashes of the family fire near at hand. Two thin dogs and a forlorn calf completed the stock of this model farm" (Woolson 1874:19).

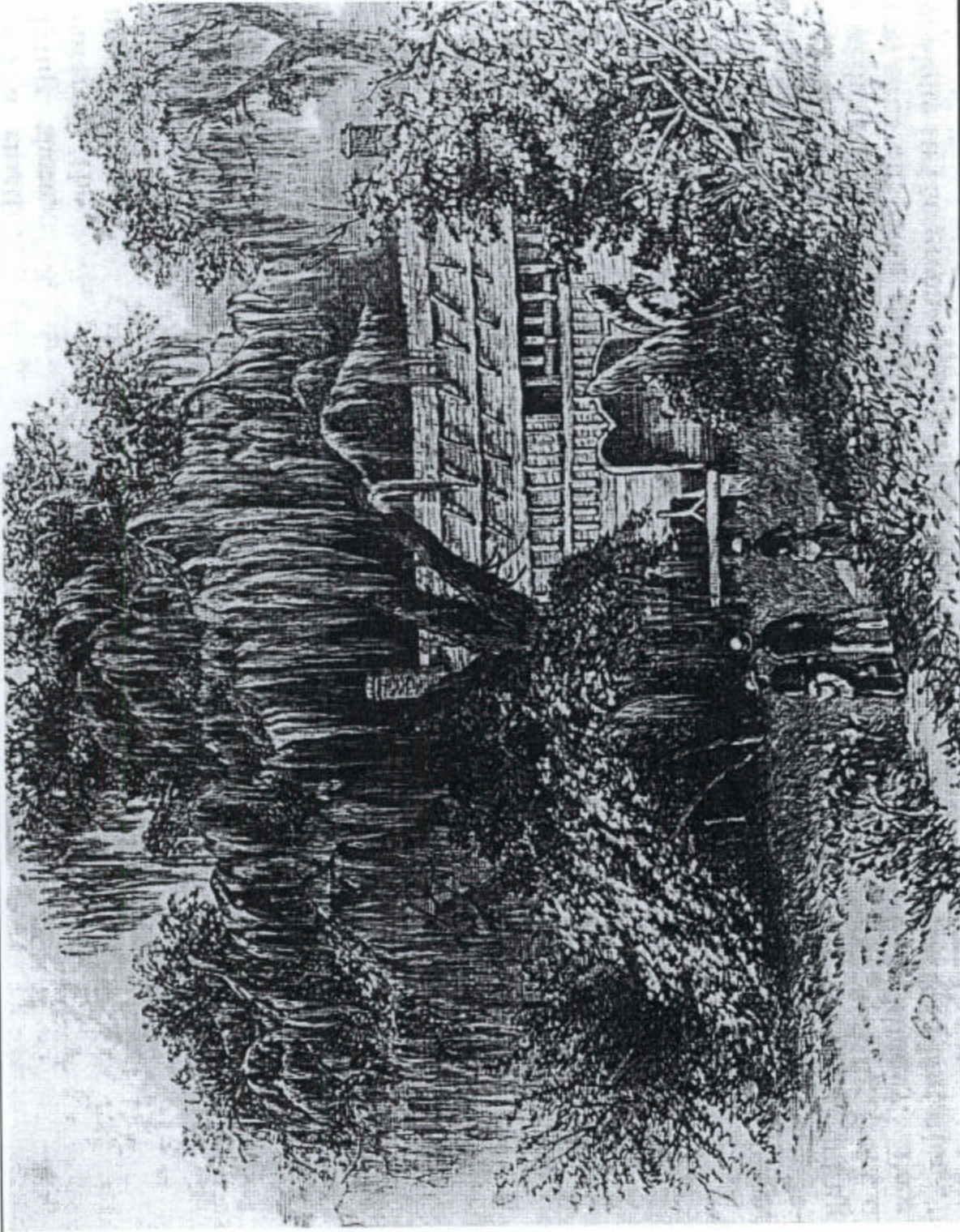
Harper's accented Woolson's "Ancient City" with line drawings of St. Augustine. Several images also depicted Anastasia Island, including "Tomb on Fish Island" (Figure 2.15), "A Deserted Plantation" (Figure 2.16), "Orange Walk" (Figure 2.17), and "John and Iris" (Figure 2.18) (Woolson 1874:17-20).



Tomb on Fish Island (Woolson 1874)

Figure 2.15. Tomb on Fish Island





A Deserted Plantation (Woolson 1874)

## Fish Island

St. Johns County, Florida

Figure: 2.16

Project: EJ00313.03

Date: March 2004



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Figure 2.17: Orange Walk (Woolson 1874)



Figure 2.18: John and Iris (Woolson 1874)



References to Fish and El Vergel rarely appeared in late nineteenth century guide and tour books of Florida. In 1875, poet laureate Sidney Lanier described St. Augustine in *Florida: Its Scenery, Climate, and History*. But, his narrative revealed little about Anastasia Island or Jesse Fish. Within a decade of Lanier's treatise, Chicago newspaper journalist George Barbour published a series of guide books of the state, derived from his observations while on tours in 1879 and 1881. Barbour's 1882 edition of *Florida For Tourists, Invalids, and Settlers* encouraged tourists of St. Augustine to enjoy a "pleasant excursion" to Anastasia Island where they could see the lighthouse and coquina quarries. But, his guidebook made no mention of El Vergel or Jesse Fish (Barbour 1882:106).

Only a few nineteenth-century tourists recorded images of Fish Island that have survived. Sketched approximately 100 years after the construction of El Vergel, one of the first visual references of the main house was included in a collection of line drawings prepared by Henry J. Morton, an Episcopal priest from Philadelphia who visited St. Augustine in 1867. His line drawings included "Waiting for the Tide--Fishes Island, Florida" and "The Solitary House on Fish's Island, 22 March 1867" (Figure 2.19) (Graham 1996:34-35, 40-41). In faint handwriting, Morton noted "The Solitary House" as a coquina building, one of few first-hand references to the type of construction used to assemble the residence. Morton's daughter, Alice, later explored the main house, finding that "It had once been a fine residence, was built of stone with a stone terrace, a balcony supported on arches across the front, but there was not a pane of glass nor a window shutter nor a sash in the whole building. The gaunt black open casements stared at us as we approached like eye sockets of a skull" (Graham 1996:40).



Figure 2.19: The Solitary House on Fish's Island, 22 March 1867 ( Graham 1996)



Fish Island remained part of Florida's public lands until the late nineteenth century. In the 1830s, government surveyors had placed the island in Section 29, which was divided into six lots of various sizes and shapes. Not identified on early government maps by name, shape, or metes and bounds, Fish Island occupied parts of lots two, three, and six. Title for the sectional lands were delivered from the United States to the State of Florida in September 1856. A decade later, in September 1867, Albert D. Rogero acquired lots two and three. In association with a business partner, Charles Hopkins, Rogero also acquired lot six that year. Relatively little is known about Rogero; during the 1880s, Hopkins operated a real estate company in St. Augustine (Richards 1886:391; (DEP 1850-1906). Adjacent lot one was acquired by the St. Johns Railway Company in 1886, and lots four and five went to the Model Land Company in 1906. Previously unsurveyed lands in the section were surveyed and documented by the 1890s, when they were deeded to the St. Augustine Improvement Company (DEP 1850-1906).

Rogero failed to meet his financial obligations associated with the property, and in 1876 the State of Florida conveyed the property to William Mickler of St. Augustine through a tax deed. Mickler retained the real estate briefly, transferring it to Philip T. Rogero in April 1876 (Deed Book X, p. 213, Clerk of Court, St. Johns County Courthouse). Two years later, in May 1878, Rogero sold lot two, which was identified as "the island commonly called 'Fish's Island,' which forms part of Anastasia Island," to William J. Sanchez who maintained possession of the island for nearly five decades (Deed Book X, p. 317, Clerk of Court, St. Johns County Courthouse). In July 1875, Sanchez rounded out his holdings on Fish Island by acquiring adjacent lots three and six in Section 29 through tax deeds (Deed Book V, p. 222, Clerk of Court, St. Johns County Courthouse).

Born in 1848, W. J. Sanchez was a son of Venancio Sanchez, who served as the Furman's agent in their unsuccessful claim for Anastasia Island. The Sanchezes shared in the management of Sanchez & Son, one of St. Augustine's oldest general merchandise stores (Richards 1886:393). The *St. Augustine Record* considered W. J. Sanchez a "leading capitalist of St. Johns County, with extensive interests in cattle and lands" (*St. Augustine Record*, 25 September 1927). He held the Fish Island property into the early-1920s.

Fish Island was part of a larger conflict that played out through private land title claims and homestead petitions on Anastasia Island, which the general land office and congressional actions clarified and resolved in the 1880s and 1890s. In May 1888, the U. S. Senate passed a resolution that read, in part, that "The Attorney-General of the United States is hereby directed to report to the Senate whether Anastasia Island, near Saint Augustine, Florida, is the property of the United States, and whether the whole or any part of it is covered by any grant from Spain, which has been confirmed, and is recognized as valid by the United States under the treaty between Spain and the United States" (Senate 1888:1).

Federal activities and congressional involvement in the legal fate of Anastasia Island's land title ownership deepened in 1891, when the senate resolved that "the Secretary of the Interior be, and he hereby is, requested to suspend all further action in respect of admitting land claims under the laws of the United States on the island of Anastasia, Florida, during present session of Congress and until the expiration of the next session of Congress, unless Congressional action of the subject shall have been taken meantime" (Senate 1891:1).

In 1894, Senator Samuel Pasco, who served Florida in the U. S. Senate between 1887-1899, presented a report from St. Augustine's Board of Trade investigating the delays in settling title claims on Anastasia Island to the Senate's Committee on Private Land Claims (Senate 1894:1-5). The report offered an explanation to the title claim disputes on the island. The report also provided an explanation to the relatively slow pace of development on the island during the interval. As described by its authors, the narrative revealed that Fish's heirs lost title to Anastasia Island because they failed to comply with a legal statute which required them to yield to the government those lands on Anastasia Island that were in excess of a square league and outside the specific lands they were to select for their own. An important document recounting much of the legal history of Anastasia Island during the nineteenth century, it read, in part:

*Anastasia Island, or so much of it as was not considered too marshy, was surveyed in 1835 and 1836, the amount of land surveyed being about 6,600 acres. It lies in townships 7, 8, and 9, range 30 east. In township 7 there were surveyed as private land two small Spanish grants, one made to F. X. Sanchez by Governor White in 1802, and the other to Lorenzo Rodriguez by Governor Quesada in 1793... By this survey, under the authority of the United States, the lands covered by these private claims were segregated from the public lands, and the residue of the lands on Anastasia Island were surveyed and platted as public lands of the United States.*

*In 1839 all the lands on Anastasia Island which had been surveyed and platted as public lands were offered at public sale, and no bids having been received for any of them they were from that date subject to private entry under the general land laws, and such of them as were not selected by the State of Florida under the swamp act remained subject to private entry until June, 1866, when Congress enacted that lands in Florida and some other States should be disposed of only under the homestead laws (See section 2303 R.S.).*

*A considerable number of homestead entries were made on this island prior to 1870, when in July of that year Mr. C. M. Furman, of Charleston, filed a letter with the Commissioner of the Land Office, claiming to be the owner of Anastasia Island, under a Spanish grant, and requesting that no grant or patent be issued to the State of Florida, or any other party, giving title to said island or any part thereof. This protest was filed thirty-five years after the United States had extended the public surveys over the lands in question and fourteen years after the selection by the State of Florida of some 1,500 acres of the lands as State lands, under the swamp act, had been approved by the officers of the United States. Even then no affirmative action was taken by either the Furman heirs or the United States to secure any determination as to whether or not these lands were not a part of the public domain.*

*In 1888 property in and about St. Augustine, having become valuable because of the fact that Mr. H. M. Flagler had selected that city as a field for very large investments, about 50 or more persons applied to make homestead entries of the island. Their applications were all rejected on the authority of a letter from the Commissioner of the Land Office, dated October 12, 1882, that the lands were all embraced in the Furman claim, which had not yet been adjusted. Thus, for eighteen more years after the protest of Mr. Furman, no progress had been made toward a settlement of title to this tract of land so close to the city of St. Augustine.*

*From the rejection of their applications to enter these lands and also from the rejection of certain indemnity selections, there were appeals taken to the Commissioner of*

the Land Office, and in accordance with the usual practice that matter would have been speedily determined.

Soon after this appeal was presented, there occurred a transaction which has already greatly delayed any termination of this matter so vitally important to the city of St. Augustine, and which, having been repeated, bids fair to prevent any settlement of the titles to the lands of this island for many years to come. Reference is made to the action of the Senate Committee of Private Land Claims, which, early in the Fifty-second Congress, introduced and had passed by the Senate a resolution....

By whose influence this unusual interference with the ordinary course of proceeding in land matters was brought about it is not necessary to inquire. Certainly the homesteaders and indemnity selectors would not desire to delay a termination of the matter of the title, for, as in the case of some of the homesteaders, they were living upon their selections in the hopes of getting title. Inasmuch as the Commissioner of the Land Office, on the 2d day of August, 1890, had rendered his decision that the lands were public lands, and the matter was then pending on appeal before the Secretary at the request of the Furman heirs, it is difficult to understand how they should ask the interference of Congress and two years' delay.

The decision of the Commissioner of the Land Office of date August 2, 1890, was as follows:

Nearly the whole of the land unpatented embraced by Anastasia Island is now claimed by different parties under various laws governing its disposal as public lands belonging to the United States. Upward of 1,400 acres of this island have been selected by the State as swamp land and patents issued therefor. Two private land claims have been located by survey on this land. These private claims are still pending before this office unpatented. (This is the property owned by the South Beach Railway and platted into town lots. The Rodriguez grant has since been patented).

Nearly fifty applications to acquire title to lands on this island are found on file here, having been forwarded to this office on appeal. C. M. Furman of Greenville, S.C. claims as one of the legal representatives of said Fish, and as such protests against the disposal of the lands on said island under the public land laws.

If this land is private land belonging to the Fish representatives, then your (the registrar's and receiver's) rejection of said applications to enter the same as public lands should be sustained; if not, your action in the matter should be overruled.

The evidence upon which this Fish claim rests will be found printed in the American State Papers, vol. 4, pp. 283 to 300 and 465 to 471. Congress, in acting on the reports of the commissioners confirming those claims, recommended whose area was under 3,500 (see act of February 8, 1827.) By act of Congress of May 23, 1828, those having an area greater than 3,500 acres were confirmed to the extent of a league square, provided the claimant released the excess.

This island contains upward of 6,661 acres, as some of the marsh land have not yet been surveyed. (As a matter of fact there are nearly 1,000 acres of unsurveyed land.) A league square is 4,438.68 acres. Those representing the Fish claim have never released this excess, either under the second section of the act of May 26, 1830, which only allowed them one year from the date to make such



released, or have they secured a confirmation in any other manner. It appears that, subsequent to the date when it is alleged that said island was granted to Fish, a portion of the lands comprising this island was granted to F. X. Sanchez.

The United States extended the public surveys over this island in 1834. The Supreme Court of the United States held in the case of *Bottiller v. Dominguez*, 130 U.S. 238, that claims derived from the Spanish and Mexican governments had no validity until they had been presented and confirmed as required by the laws of this country. The Fish claim has been presented, but the claimants have failed to comply with the conditions imposed by Congress, that is, release all lands claimed in excess of a league square; consequently the same has never been confirmed and has no validity before the Land Department of this Government.

The resolution reported by the Private Lands Committee, and passed by the Fifty-second Congress, delayed any decision by the Secretary until June 22, 1893, that is, three years after the Commissioner's decision was rendered. The Secretary affirmed the decision of the Commissioner that the lands were public land of the United States, and directed that they be disposed of accordingly.

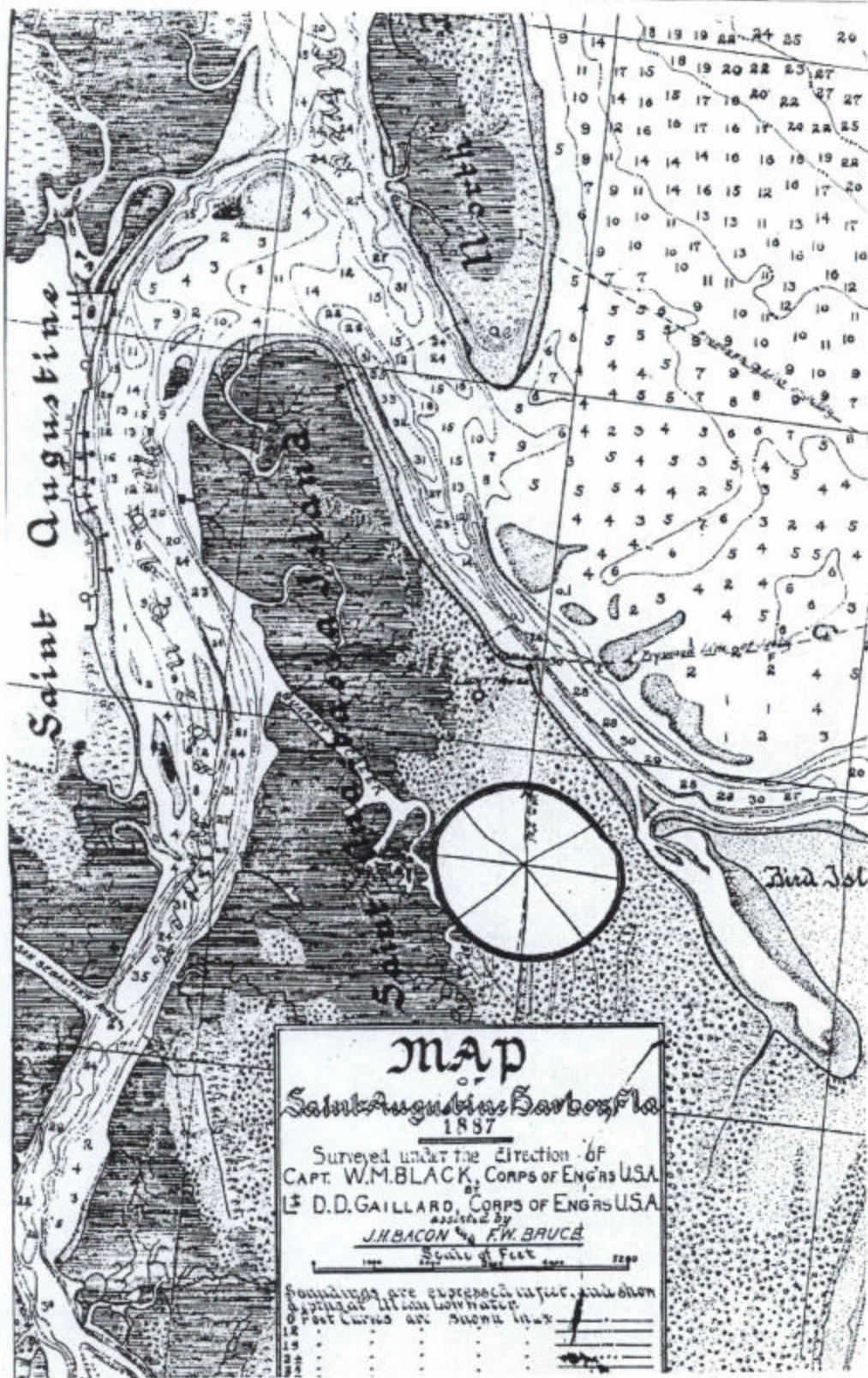
On August 28, 1893, the Commissioner wrote the Gainesville land office as follows:

*In the matter of the private claim of Jesse Fish, involving title to Anastasia Island, the honorable Secretary of the Interior, under date of June 22, 1893, affirmed the decision of this office of August 2, 1890, holding that said claim had no validity. As no motion for a review has been filed in this case, the applications and appeals herein named of parties to enter tracts on said island, under the land laws of the United States, are herewith returned to your office that they may be made of record, and acted upon on their merits according to their priority, and all conflicts settled in the usual manner.*

Contemporary to the Congressional proceedings regarding the Anastasia Island claims, the U. S. Army Corps of Engineers prepared a map of St. Augustine harbor. An examination that provided soundings along the Matanzas River, the map reveals the extent to which Fish Island was being reclaimed by nature (Figure 2.20). Published in 1887, the resource did not provide a place-name for the island, but depicted few buildings and man-made features--the system of canals, ditches, and fields--evidence that El Vergel retained few of its eighteenth-century buildings and structures (Black and Gaillard 1887).

### **Early Twentieth Century and Davis Shores Contexts**

During the early twentieth century various illustrations and maps depicted Fish Island. Artist and author H. S. Wyllie prepared several line drawings of various ruins at El Vergel. The artwork depicted the remains of the "Old Fish Residence" and the "Fish Monument" on Anastasia Island (Figure 2.21). Born in Cumberland County, England in 1852, Henry Shaw Wyllie worked on a tea plantation in India before settling in Orange County, Florida, in 1886. He planted an orange grove and developed his skills as an artist and writer. He lived in several central Florida communities, including Johns Lake, Oakland, and Sanford, where he designed and published bird's eye view maps. In 1896, he moved to St. Augustine to publish books and maps. Eventually, he prepared



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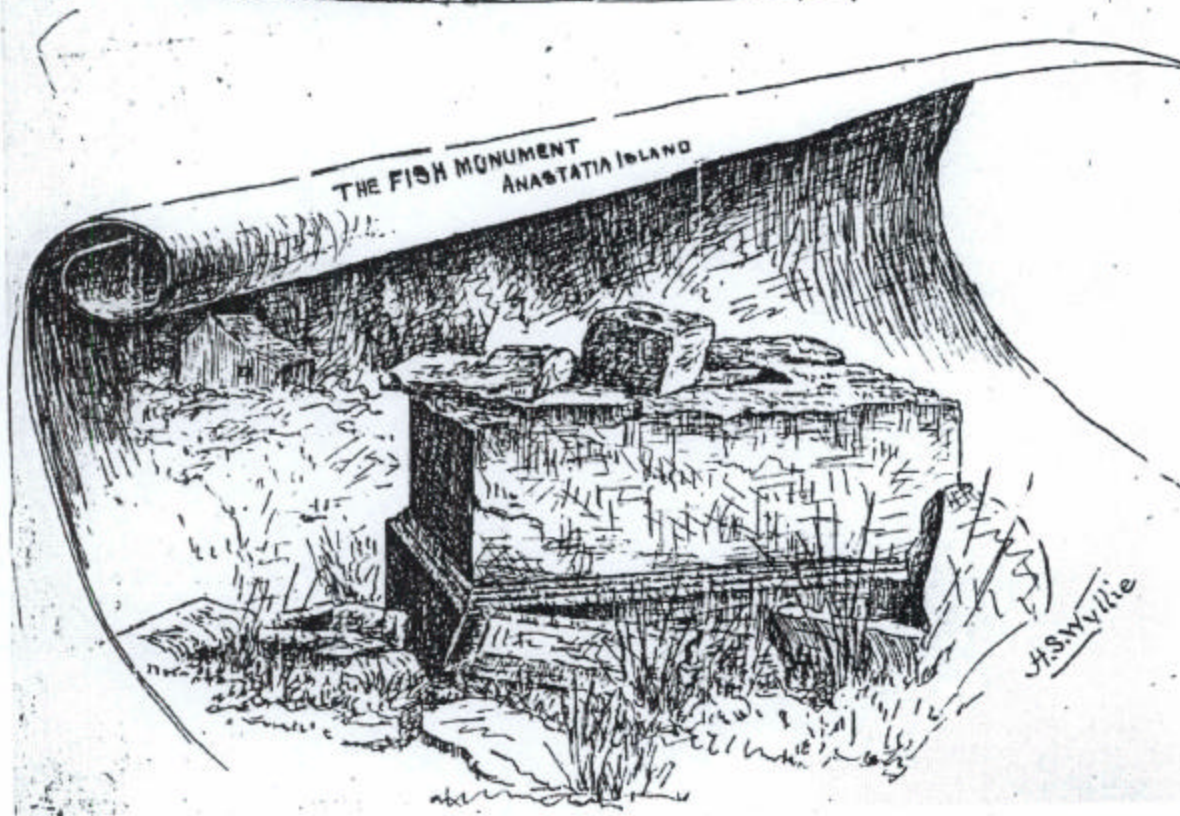
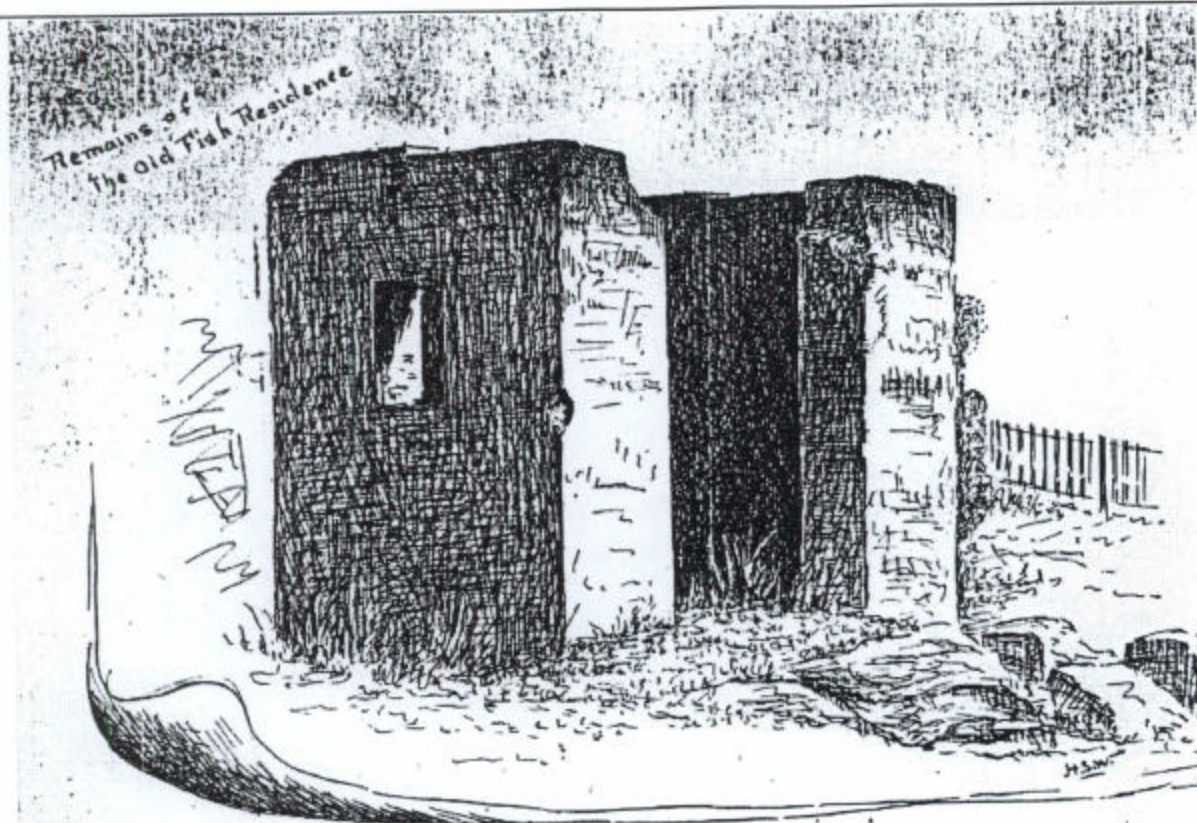
Map of Saint Augustine Harbor, Fla.,  
 1887 (Black and Gaillard 1887)  
**Fish Island**  
 St. Johns County, Florida

Figure: 2.20

Project: EJ00313.03

Date: March 2004





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"Old Fish Residence"  
and "Fish Monument" (Wyllie c. 1916)  
**Fish Island**  
St. Johns County, Florida

Figure: 2.21

Project: EJ00313.03

Date: March 2004



several bird's-eye view maps of cities in Florida and New Jersey. Wyllie issued his map of DeLand in 1894, and in 1898 he published *St. Augustine Under Three Flags*. In 1914, he completed *A Fragmentary History of St. Augustine*, and developed a bird's eye view map of St. Augustine under the direction of the St. Augustine Institute of Science and Historical Society in 1916, three years before his death in New Jersey. It is believed that Wyllie's Anastasia Island artwork was prepared contemporaneous to the bird's eye view map of the city. His papers, which include correspondence and notes relating to places in St. Augustine, are held in the manuscript collection at the Library of Congress and another collection is maintained by the St. Augustine Historical Society Research Library (Fish Island File, SAHSRL; H. S. Wyllie Papers, SAHSRL; H. S. Wyllie Papers, National Union Catalog; Wyllie 1916).

Published in 1917, the U. S. Department of Agriculture's soil survey map of St. Johns County depicted Fish Island with a single structure (Bureau of Soils 1917) (Figure 2.22). Curtis Marbut and Milton Whitney of the department's Bureau of Soils mislabeled the island as Fishers Island. As late as 1859, the U. S. Coast Survey had used the place name "Fish's Island" for the site. But, later cartographers, perhaps even before 1917, introduced the place-name error of "Fishers Island" on maps depicting the island. The name Fishers Island appeared perhaps through a misappropriation of the word from the more nationally familiar Fishers Island, New York, and Fishers Island, Connecticut. In any case, the misspelling of the original name was repeated and remains on contemporary USGS topographic maps of Fish Island (Figure 2.23).

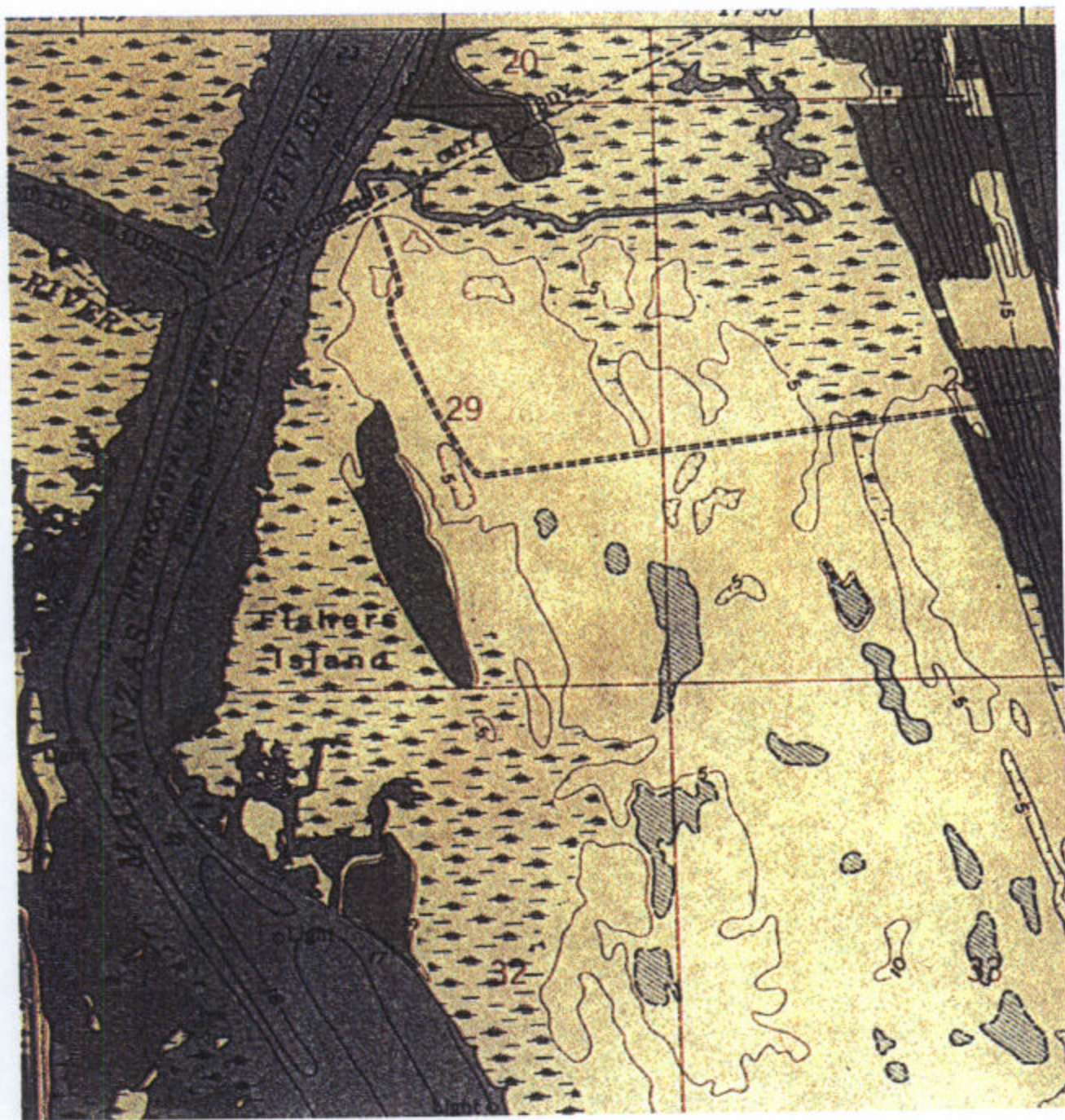
In March 1925, six years after Wyllie's death, in an affidavit prepared in March 1925, W. J. Sanchez presented a history of Fish Island and some of its uses during the late nineteenth and early twentieth centuries. During the interval, he used part of the island as a farm, apparently making use of and improving the remnants of existing canals, ditches, landings, and wharves to cultivate his crops and transport them into St. Augustine. Interestingly, in his 1925 affidavit, Sanchez used the corrupted spelling version of Fishers Island to indicate that:

*I am seventy-seven years old and was born and raised in St. Augustine, St. Johns County, Florida. I am the son of Venancio Sanchez, deceased, who was also born in said city, county, and state. I am sometimes known as and called W. J. Sanchez, Wm. J. Sanchez, and William J. Sanchez. I am familiar with the history of Fishers Island, which island, originally known as Fish's Island, was named after my maternal great, great grandfather, Jesse Fish: that the said Jesse Fish was in possession of said island prior to 1765; afterwards said island was sold at execution sale and Jesse Fish, my maternal great grandfather, son of my great great grandfather, Jesse Fish, purchased same at an execution sale, and went into possession of the island. At the death of my great grandfather, Gabriel W. Perpall, who married Jessie Fish, who was the heir of her father, Jesse Fish, remained in possession of said island during his life time. At his death, Charles M. Furman remained in possession of said island until his death, when my father, Venancio and myself went into possession and we remained in possession thereof until my father's death. At his death, which occurred in 1899, I have remained in possession thereof until January 31, 1925, at which time, I sold and conveyed said Fishers Island to one A. L. Pamies.*









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USGS 1956  
**Fish Island**  
St. Johns County, Florida

Figure:	2.23
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*I know of my own personal knowledge that the possession spoken of above has been open, continuous, adverse and peaceable since the year 1869, 56 years; that during the possession above mentioned there was an orange grove on the island, cultivated and kept up, and the island cultivated and planted in corn, water melon, potatoes, etc. A portion of said island consists of marsh lands and these marsh lands were used as part of the farm for the grazing of cattle, hogs, and horses, and was part of said farm.*

*I knew Philip T. Rogero in his life time. He was the Philip T. Rogero named in the quit-claim deed to me, which deed was dated May 21, 1878, and recorded in Deed Book X, Page 317, St. Johns County, Florida records, and at the time of the making of said deed Philip T. Rogero was an unmarried man.*

*During all the time I have stated as to the possession of said island of my own personal knowledge, and from the year 1875, I have been in the actual, peaceable, quiet and adverse possession of said island, paid the taxes thereon during all said time, and such possession consisted of the act as aforesaid (Official Record 655, p. 599, Clerk of Court, St. Johns County Courthouse).*

In January 1925, Sanchez conveyed lots two, three, and six, along with additional real estate, to Arthur L. and Marie Pamies of St. Augustine (Deed Book 55, p. 179, Clerk of Court, St. Johns County Courthouse). A principal in the Pamies-Arango Company, a manufacturer and purveyor of cigars in St. Augustine, the Pamies sold lots two, three, and six--properties that included Fish Island--to the Coral Shore Development Company of Hillsborough County, Florida for \$50,000 in March 1925 (Deed Book 55, p. 180, Clerk of Court, St. Johns County Courthouse). Incorporated in 1924 as a \$50,000 real estate business by David Paul Davis of Tampa, William R. Gignilliatt of Tampa, and Arthur Y. Milam of Jacksonville, the Coral Shore Development Company conveyed all of Section 29 to D. P. Davis Properties in July 1925 (Incorporation Book 3, p. 415, Deed Book 62, p. 478-479, Deed Book 64, p. 586, Clerk of Court, St. Johns County Courthouse).

A native of Green Cove Springs, Florida, D. P. "Doc" Davis spent his boyhood in Tampa, Florida, was educated in the public schools of Hillsborough County and the University of Florida, and sold real estate in Tampa and Jacksonville between 1907 and 1918. He moved to Miami in the latter year, where he made a fortune developing the Alta Vista subdivision and other tracts along low-lying lands at Miami and Miami Beach. He returned to Tampa in 1925 and launched a development he named Davis Islands, which consisted of mud flats and three islands at the mouth of the Hillsborough River. Using a fleet of dredges to fill the marshes, create canals and waterways, and construct a bridge from the mainland, he transformed the wetlands into fashionable residential sites. In March 1924, he organized D. P. Davis Properties as a \$3,500,000 real estate business at St. Augustine and began development of the Davis Shores subdivision. In December 1925, the *St. Augustine Record* announced that the largest dredge in the world, the *New York*, had sailed into the Matanzas River from which approximately 13,000,000 cubic yards of river bottom would be used to fill Anastasia Island's marshes. One of the largest dredging operations in boomtime Florida, three shifts a day worked nonstop to pump 1,000,000 yards of river bottom onto Anastasia Island's wetlands each month for a year (Nolan 1984:196). Davis also hired contractor William N. McDonald to build twenty miles of sea wall around the Davis Shores properties (*St.*

*Augustine Record*, 15 October, 30 December 1925, 13 October 1926; Incorporation Book 3, p. 419, Clerk of Court, St. Johns County Courthouse; Tebeau 1971:384-385).

Estimated as a \$60,000,000 project, the Davis Shores subdivision was to include a \$1,000,000 hotel, \$250,000 country club, \$200,000 yacht club, and other fashionable amenities. Companies managed by George B. Hills of Jacksonville and G. F. Young of Tampa prepared engineering studies and laid out the massive subdivision. Prepared in early-1925, the George B. Hills Company's "Topographic Map of D. P. Davis Properties, Anastasia Island, Florida" carefully labeled Fish's Island on which were identified the ruins of a house, sentry box, and tomb, in addition to cleared land, natural features, and vegetation (Figure 2.24). Executed by G. F. Young, Inc., plans to guide development included Fish Island. Formally recorded in early-1926, several plats divided Fish Island into numerous blocks and lots designed as part of the yacht and country club sections of Davis Shores (Figure 2.25). Interrupting a creative curvilinear pattern of blocks, lots, and streets, large reserved sections on Fish Island and elsewhere in the subdivision were identified for future use as a golf course. In February 1926, the Davis Shores Golf & Country Club was incorporated (1926, 1927 tax rolls, Map Book 3, p. 118-120, 122, 131, Incorporation Book 3, p. 468, Clerk of Court, St. Johns County Courthouse).

In May 1926, new residences amounting to \$375,000 were under construction at the northern tip of Anastasia Island. Despite the ambitious undertaking, few if any lots were sold on the Fish Island part of the subdivision. Although areas east of the island were filled during the dredging process, little apparent disturbance occurred to the ruins on the island, and none of the planned subdivision roads were developed. Writer Kenneth Roberts included descriptions of Davis in his 1926 publication *Florida*. The author revealed "The reputation that Davis had built up on his Tampa island-building venture was of such portent nature that on the first day of Davis Shores sales, he was flooded with demand for lots. He was able to offer building lots to the value of \$11,268,000. They were snapped up within a few hours and the oversubscription amounted to \$7,137,000. In 100 days, Davis's sales force sold more than \$50,000,000 worth of property, which provides a mark at which real estate dealers will probably be able to shoot for some time to come" (*St. Augustine Record*, 13 October 1926).

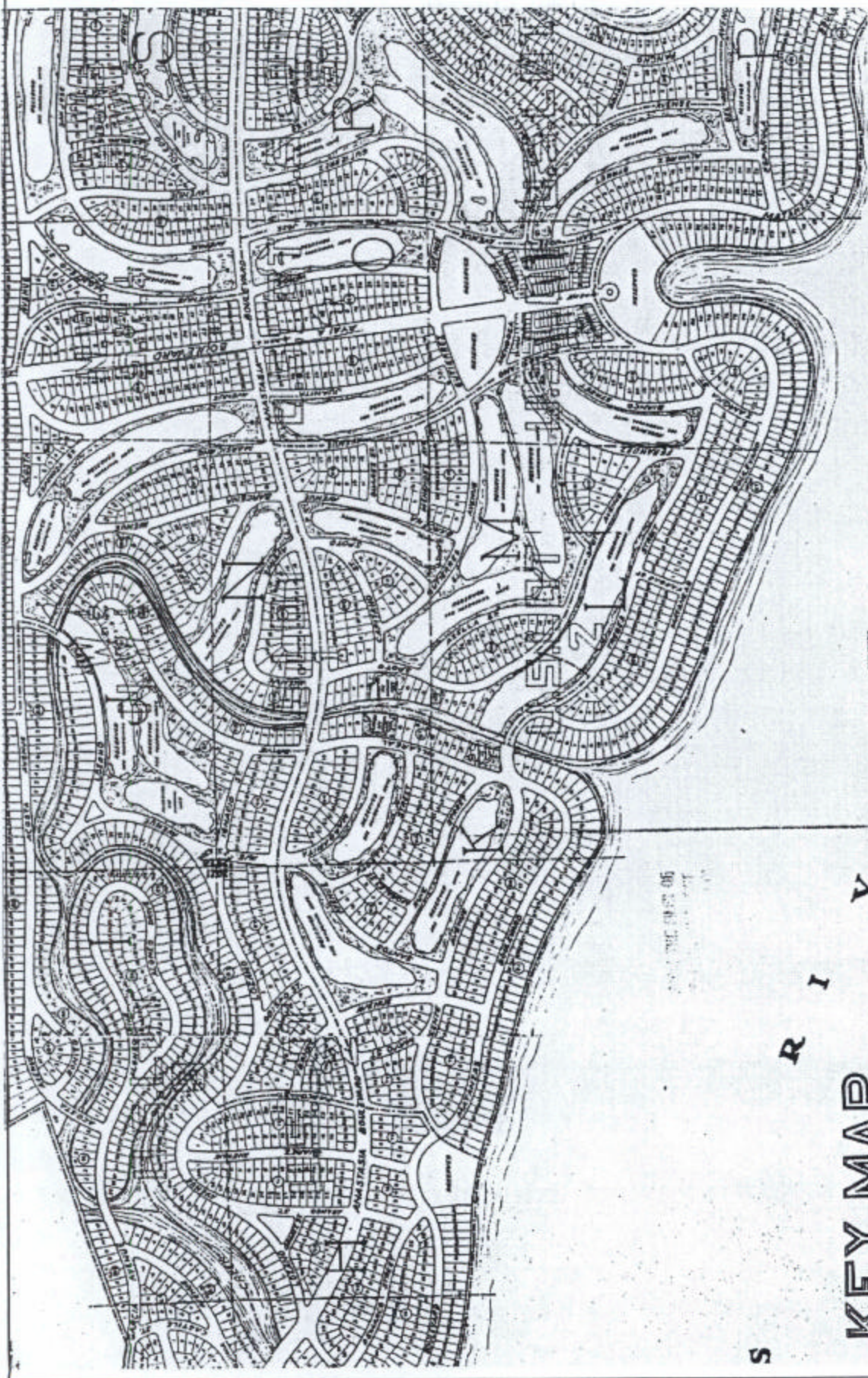
Writing sixty years later, historian David Nolan found Davis to be the "quintessential boomer" and upon the appearance of the developer in St. Augustine the "Ancient City prostrated itself at his feet" (Nolan 1984:196). But, Davis's investments provided few returns in late-1925 as the Florida Land Boom began to deflate. In August 1926, a Boston syndicate acquired fifty-one percent of Davis's share in the Davis Islands project in Tampa, which helped him meet some of his obligations. But, in October 1926, Davis plunged to his death in the Atlantic Ocean aboard the *S.S. Majestic*; initial reports indicated suicide and then accidental drowning. In his assessment of Davis's demise, Nolan found "the mystery surrounding his death has never been dispelled" (Nolan 1984:284-285).

Davis's death coincided with the collapse of Florida's speculative land bubble that began in the early-1920s. Bank deposits in the state had risen from \$180,000,000 to \$875,000,000 between 1922 and 1925, but began to decline in the late months of 1925. In August 1925, the Florida East Coast Railway announced an embargo on freight shipments to south Florida, where ports and rail terminals were clogged with unused building materials. Bankers and businessmen throughout the









Key Map of Davis Shores, April 1926  
 (Map Book 3, p. 131, Clerk of Court, St. Johns County Courthouse)

**Fish Island**  
 St. Johns County, Florida

Figure: 2.25  
 Project: EJ00313.03  
 Date: March 2004





nation had begun to complain about transfers of money to Florida. Newspapers suggested fraud in land sales. Large withdrawals followed in early-1926, traditional months for winter tourists and speculators. In 1926, forty Florida banks collapsed. Real estate assessments between 1926 and 1928 declined by \$182,000,000. Construction tapered off in most Florida cities after 1926. Devastating hurricanes that hit southeast Florida in 1926 and 1928 killed thousands of people, providing a sad, closing chapter to the land speculation fever gone bust (Tebeau 1971:385-88).

In the aftermath of Davis's death and the collapse of the Florida Land Boom, D. P. Davis Properties held few cash reserves, struggled to pay its taxes on unsold lots, and failed to collect payments on contracts for property (Tebeau 1971:384-385). In March 1934, the courts declared the Davis Company bankrupt. In April 1935, D. P. Davis Properties conveyed hundreds of acres, including Fish Island, to Davis Shores, Inc., a real estate company organized by St. Augustine businessmen John D. Thompson and Harold E. Ryman. Thompson and Ryman vacated numerous streets in undeveloped areas. During the Depression decade, St. Augustine historian and photographer J. Carver Harris recorded several images of the ruins at El Vergel, including the tomb (Figure 2.26) and sentry house (Figure 2.27). By 1940, the platted block and lot system on and around Fish Island had been eliminated from tax maps and records, and the property was returned to undivided sectional lands (Tax Rolls 1932, 1940, Deed Book 107, p. 229-235, p. 236-240, 279, 405, Miscellaneous Book Q, p. 290, Clerk of Court, St. Johns County Courthouse).

### **Intracoastal Waterway Context**

Fish Island overlooks Florida's Intracoastal Waterway, which played an important role in Florida during the late nineteenth and early twentieth centuries. An investigation of the U. S. Army Corps of Engineers' real estate records indicate that no spoil banks were created at or near Fish Island during the historic period (Martin 2004). Inland navigation along Florida's entire east coast existed in a broken series of lagoons, haulovers, and inlets until the early twentieth century. The head of the inland navigation channel in Florida lay at the St. Mary's River, meandered west of Amelia Island, and resumed at Pablo Creek at its juncture with the St. Johns River. In the 1820s, the federal government allocated funds to improve navigation along northeast Florida's inland waterways (Carter 1959 24:129, 246-247, 276).

Private interests launched a concerted effort to provide an inland channel along Florida's east coast in the 1880s, when the Florida Coast Line Canal & Transportation Company (FCLC&TC) was organized. The promise of land grants in exchange for dredging work encouraged the company to devise a plan and reach an agreement with the state, which stipulated that the FCLC&TC would receive 3,840 acres of public lands for each mile of canal constructed. Dredging began in 1883, and by 1890 the company's general manager, George F. Miles, reported that most of the system had a channel five feet deep and fifty feet wide at mean low water. The work earned the company over 500,000 acres of the state's public lands. Although the FCLC&TC met the minimum threshold of its agreement, periodic examinations and surveys by the Corps of Engineers indicated many channel and shoal deficiencies. Other studies revealed that inland navigation along Florida's east coast had improved only marginally (Congress House 1895:1-5; Congress House 1918a:2-3; Congress House 1918b:2-3, 6; Chief of Engineers 1908 5:352; Dovell 1952 2:786-788; Akin 1988:177).

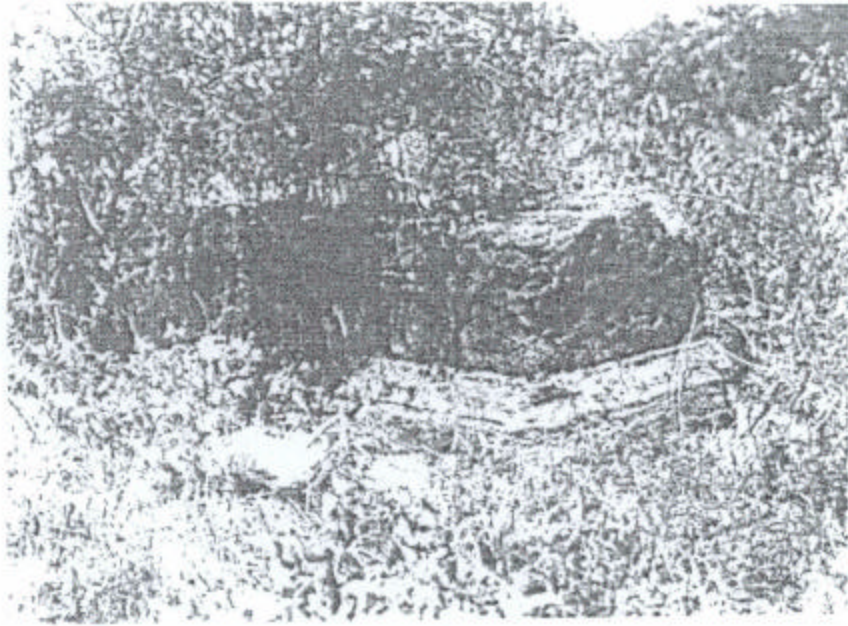
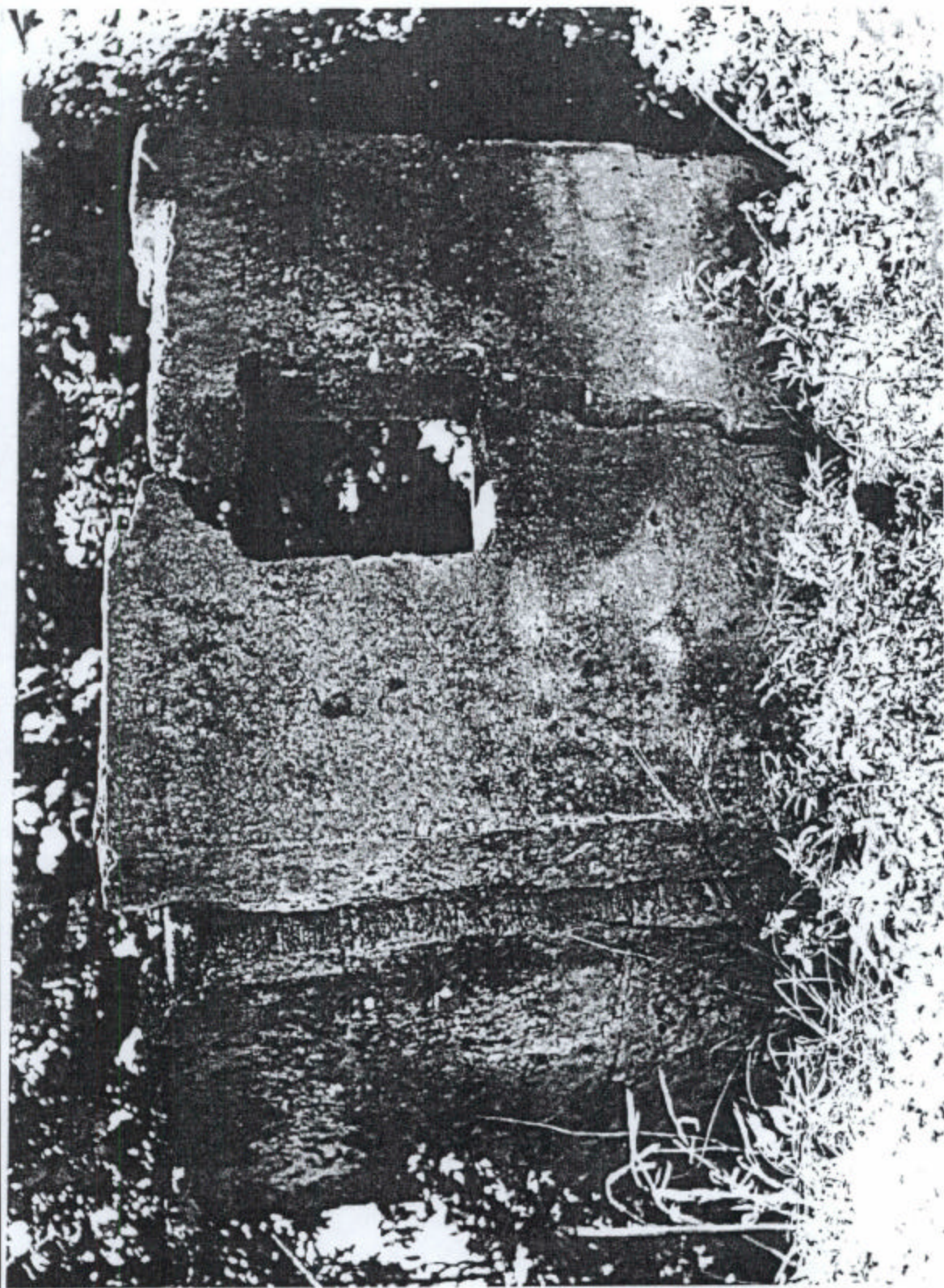


Figure 2:26: Jesse Fish's Tomb- Fish's Island (J. Carver Harris, c. 1938)





Ruins of old guard/sentry house - Fish's Island  
(J. Carver Harris, c. 1938)

## Fish Island

St. Johns County, Florida

Figure: 2.27

Project: EJ00313.03

Date: March 2004



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The FCLC&TC completed its final phase in the construction of the waterway in 1912 at a cost of \$3,504,635. Extending 360 miles from the mouth of the St. Johns River to Biscayne Bay, the channel had a nominal width of fifty feet and a depth of five feet. Irregular maintenance still hampered navigation, which could be accomplished safely only in small vessels at high tide. The Corps's Colonel William Craighill recommended the federal government improve the waterway only after the FCLC&TC relinquished its rights and privileges to the route. He noted that the *St. Lucie*, a 120-foot steamer weighing 165 tons and capable of carrying 130 passengers, had difficulty navigating several channels, and travelers experienced delays because the ship often became grounded (Dovell 1952 2:786-788; Congress House 1890:1-5; Congress House 1918a:2-3; Congress House 1926:4, 10-11, 14, 80-81).

It soon became clear that the existing waterway provided few tangible benefits to businesses and residents along Florida's east coast. A report prepared in 1918 indicated that although the shorelines and inland areas of the state's east coast counties contained one-third of the valuation of the state and eighteen percent of the state's land mass, only two percent of the area then supported crops or development. Even more discouraging was Major-General W. M. Black's report that "the existing Florida East Coast canal is too narrow and too shoal, even where maintained to full-project dimensions, to form an economical and efficient water route." Only four commercial boats used the waterway between Jacksonville and Daytona Beach, each drawing approximately four feet of water and weighing fewer than 100 tons. Greater in number were smaller pleasure craft, which in 1918 amounted to nearly 300 yachts carrying seasonal tourists who made annual pilgrimages along the waterway (Congress House 1918b:2, 7; Congress House 1926:81).

In 1910 and again in 1916 the canal company failed to negotiate transferring the waterway maintenance to the federal government. The parties finally reached an agreement in the 1927, when the Florida Inland Navigation District (FIND) was organized with authorization to purchase the waterway for the federal government. Composed of commissioners from the state's eleven east coast counties, FIND issued bonds and transferred the rights-of-way to the federal government in 1929. Renewed dredging resulted in the improvement of a continuous channel between Jacksonville and Miami of 100 feet wide by eight feet deep in 1935 (Cash 1938 4: 593; Dovell 1952 2:786-788; Buker 1975:122-123; Congress House 1926:90; Congress House 1957:3).

Corps reports reveal moderate usage of the Intracoastal Waterway in the decade before World War I, but increased numbers of watercraft during the 1920s and Great Depression. In 1915, one report indicated the North River section near St. Augustine experienced the heaviest annual activity with 925 steamers, 1,259 launches and house boats, and 174 other miscellaneous watercraft plying the intracoastal waterway that year (*St. Augustine Record*, 22 November 1915). During World War I, approximately \$20,000 of commercial goods were transported along the North River and Pablo Creek sections of the waterway, and in 1922 over 1,500 vessels plied those stretches of the route. Half of those were freight and passenger boats, but pleasure yachts and launches accounted for nearly 500 additional craft. Commercial freight lines traveling into St. Augustine included the Allen Line, DuPont Line, Echo Line, Fides Line, Gulf Refining Company, Jacksonville-Daytona Line, and St. Augustine Day Line. Most inbound commerce at St. Augustine consisted of feed, fertilizer, groceries, and potatoes. In November 1923 alone, nearly 300 vessels sailed the North River, but only twelve of those were barges. In the 1930s, pleasure craft increased their dominance of the waterway (Congress House 1926:15, 17, 18, 91).



During the Great Depression, the waterway gained additional significance associated with an increase in recreational yachts and motor boats plying the region's inland waterways. Georgia's sea islands, Amelia Island, and St. Augustine accommodated increasing numbers of relatively small boats. Over the decades, the Corps produced a variety of maps depicting the waterway, including a revised version in 1933 (Figure 2.28). Although the map showed various road systems, fields, and buildings at St. Augustine and its vicinity, no features were depicted at Fish Island. By 1936, approximately 3,600 vessels with drafts between three and ten feet plied the Intracoastal Waterway between Fernandina and Savannah. Small yachts, sailboats, and motorboats accounted for nearly 700 of the watercraft. During the period, coastal communities in southeast Georgia and northeast Florida benefitted from a flush tourist economy. The Castillo in St. Augustine and Fort Clinch at the northern end of Amelia Island offered popular tourist destinations along the Intracoastal Waterway (Congress House 1938:20; Congress House 1941:3, 6).

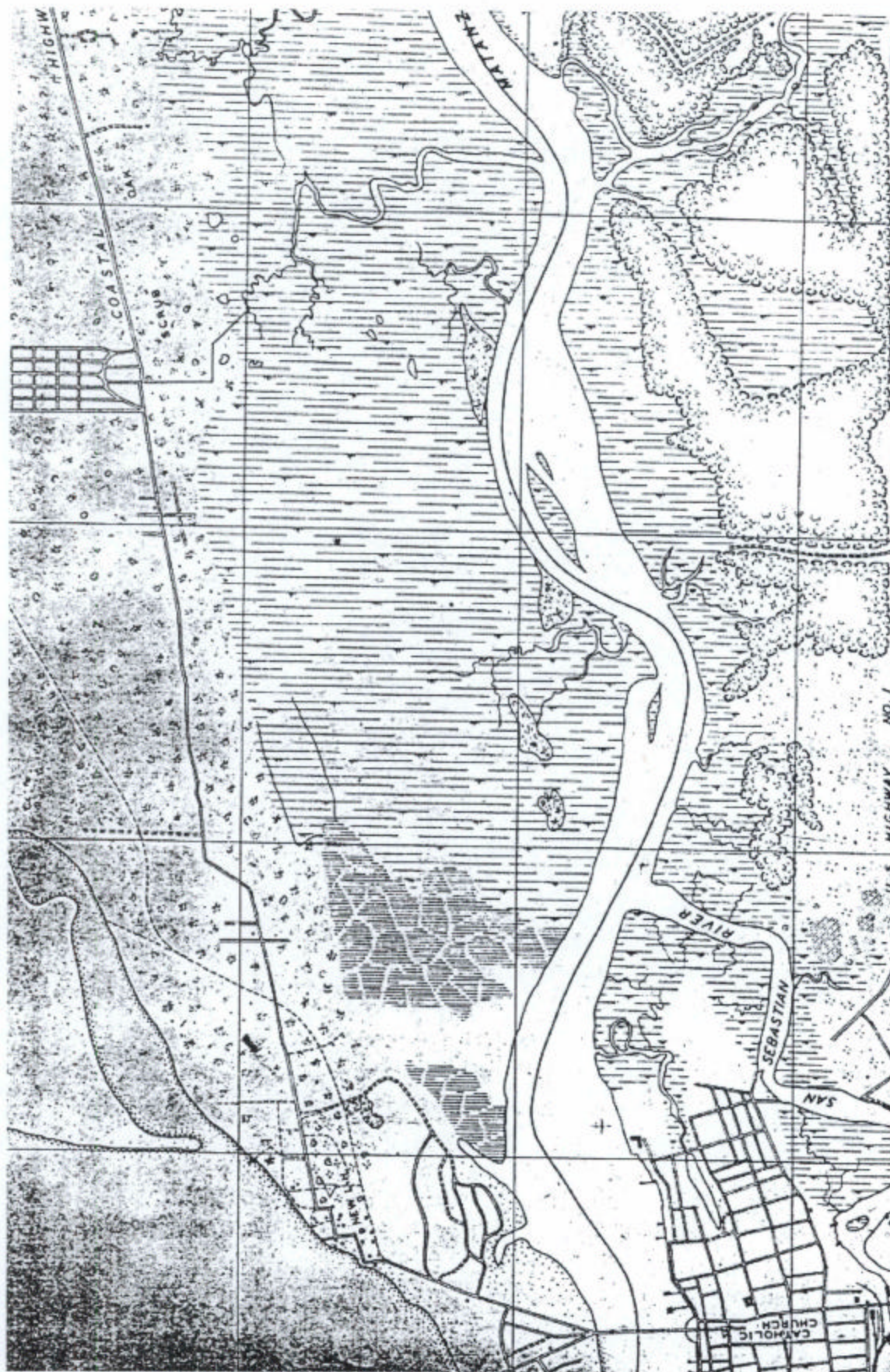
The Federal government stopped common-carrier freight service on the waterway during World War II (Figures 2.29 and 2.30), a crippling blow to an industry that failed to recover following the conflict. By the close of World War II, over 2,000 yachts annually passed under the Palm Valley Bridge north of St. Augustine. A decade later, over 10,000 small boats were registered with the U. S. Coast Guard in Florida's eleven coastal counties, and nearly 3,000 small boats passed the Palm Valley Bridge in 1954. By then, Florida's Intracoastal Waterway supported nearly ten thousand recreational craft and a handful of contract commercial shippers. New projects to dredge the channel to twelve feet and widen it to one hundred twenty-five feet were unveiled in the 1950s. By then, \$13,000,000 had been expended to improve the waterway's channels.

### Late Twentieth Century Context

Concern over the documentation and preservation of Fish Island persisted into the late twentieth century (Figure 2.31). In a 1961 letter, archaeologist John W. Griffin reminded J. Carver Harris of the St. Augustine Historical Society that:

*Jesse Fish, as we all know, preceded the English period by quite a bit, and he is the one who had the first grove. According to Michaux who visited St. Augustine in 1788 the grove on Anastasia Island yielded oranges which "are sweet, very large, have a thin skin, and are more esteemed than those brought from the West Indies. It is fifty years since the seeds of this species were brought from India, and given to an inhabitant of the island, who has increased them so much as have made an orchard of them of forty acres." Four of these forty acres belong to me, so I am owner of the first commercial orange grove site. The plantation on the portion of Anastasia Island where my place is was called El Vergel, and other evidence indicates that this was the site of Fish's grove, rather than at "Fish's Island." The burial records disclose that Feliz de la Puente, slave of Don Juan Eligio de la Puente, was buried on January 20, 1763, "having been killed by the Indians in el Vergel." So Jesse Fish's grove was not set out in the early years of the English occupation, but many years before that time (Jesse Fish File SAHSRL: John W. Griffin to J. Carver Harris, July 3, 1961).*





*Intracoastal Waterway, Fernandina to Miami*  
(Corps of Engineers 1933-1936)

## Fish Island

St. Johns County, Florida

Figure: 2.28

Project: EJ00313.03

Date: March 2004



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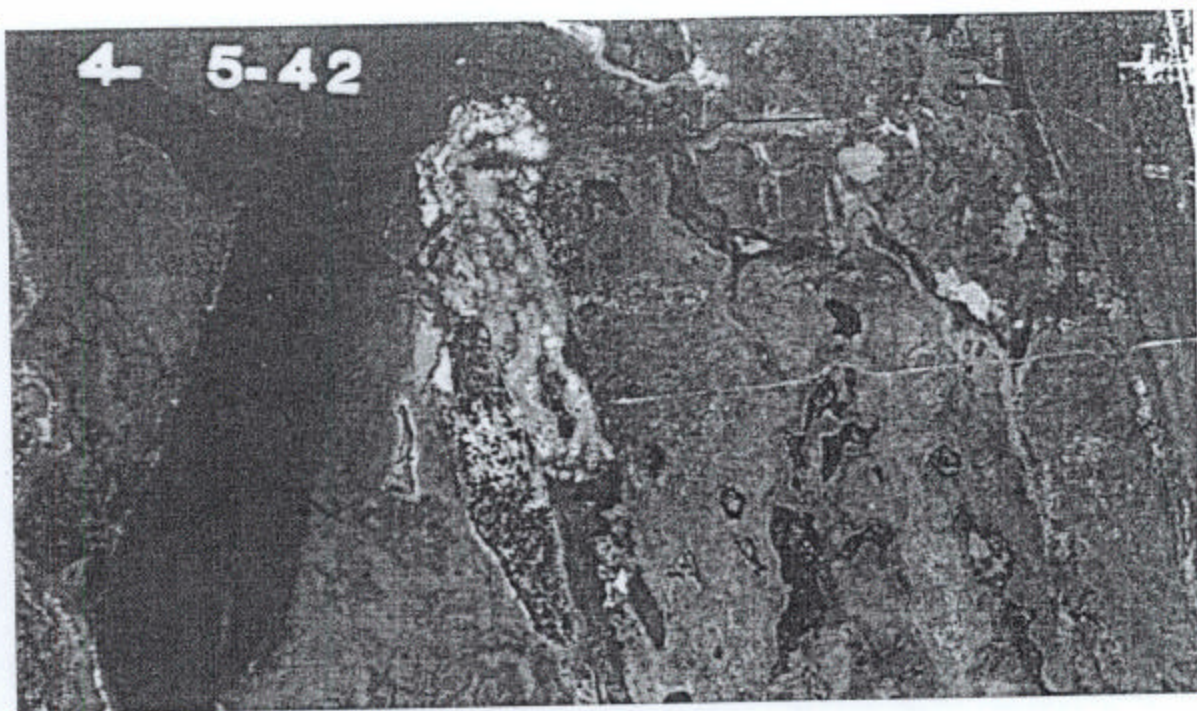


Figure 2.29: U.S. Department of Agriculture, 1942



Figure 2.30: U. S. Department of Agriculture, 1942





Figure 2.31: U. S. Department of Agriculture, 1960

In February 1963, Hobart Cawood, supervisory historian for the National Park Service in St. Augustine reported on "Fish's Orange Grove, St. Johns County, Florida." Cawood found:

*The part of Anastasia Island called Fish's Island and thought to be the location of El Vergel and the Fish Orange Grove is located east of the Matanzas River at the point where it joins the San Sebastian River. The area consists of a narrow strip of high ground bordering the Matanzas River and almost completely surrounded by salt water marsh. This location agrees with a number of historical maps in the Castillo files as the location of El Vergel. Fish's Island is presently a jungle of palmetto, grape vines, myrtle and other small shrubs native to north Florida. Most of the high ground has a generous supply of live oak, cedar, pine, and palm trees. The island is accessible by a narrow unpaved causeway which is boggy in wet weather. During a brief examination of the site with Superintendent Roberts and Pierre Thompson of St. Augustine very little could be found that might date back as far as the heyday of El Vergel. A coquina walled well and nearby coquina ruins which apparently were part of a structure were found but due to vandalism very little could be assumed from the remains. A number of other unidentified coquina blocks and slabs were found scattered over the island. Although the undergrowth was too thick for us to located any citrus trees we have several reliable sources that say there were orange trees on the*

island as recent as 15 to 20 years ago (Jesse Fish File SAHSRL: Hobart G. Cawood, Supervisory Historian, February 1963).

In June 1972, the Fish Island Site (8SJ62NR) was listed in the *National Register of Historic Places*. Owners Pierre Thompson and Harold Ryman sponsored the nomination, and Robert Steinbach prepared the form and narratives. The site possessed significance under Criterion D because "it is likely to yield important information on the late colonial and early territorial period of Florida history. The one site transcends four periods (End of First Spanish Period, British Period, Second Spanish Period, and Early Territorial years) and through historical, archaeological studies should provide significant cultural history data" (FMSF 8SJ62).

No archaeological investigation occurred as part of the National Register documentation, and no map or contemporary photographs of existing features were included in the nomination. The boundary was indicated as Fish Island and the site was described as:

*a coastal hardwood hammock, approximately 5 feet above mean low water. It is approximately 900 feet wide (E-W) and 2,900 feet long (N-S). There are still some traces of historic structures scattered over the site. This is usually in the form of scattered building rubble, although there is a portion of one chimney surviving as well as the footing of a structure of what may have been a boat house. The Morton sketch of 1867 shows a two story coquina house with a chimney in one end and a arched loggia/porch along one side, reflecting a typical St. Augustine style of architecture. The island was evidently covered with an extensive orange grove" (FMSF 8SJ62). Several years later, an article in the Jacksonville Florida Times Union recalled Pierre Thompson and John Bailey recent reconstruction of the Suarez-McHenry House on St. George Street in St. Augustine, and then mused that they could reconstruct El Vergel to its "24 x 36-foot proportions" (Jacksonville Florida Times Union, 19 January 1975).*

In 1973, responding to an article in the *Tampa Tribune*, Dade City attorney William G. Dayton expressed concerns about the well at El Vergel and protecting the site from "treasure hunters." Dayton recalled

*when I first visited the area in 1968, I had a Xerox copy of the Des Barres map and observed that the sites of coquina stone foundations correspond exactly with the building locations on the map. Since the coquina stone in the well appears to be of the same age as the foundations, I believe that I have justification for presuming that the well along with the coquina foundations are remains of the plantation of Jesse Fish maintained on Anastasia Island during the English and Second Spanish Periods. While I am aware that this letter is probably nothing more than an armchair historian's unfounded worries about an already solved problem, I thought it would be worthwhile to write anyway, just in case no one has taken steps to protect the site on Fish Island (William G. Dayton to St. Augustine Historical Society, June 18, 1973, Jesse Fish File SAHSRL).*

In the early-1970s, a proposed alignment for State Road 312 from U. S. Highway 1 on the mainland to State Road A1A on Anastasia Island was to cut across Fish Island near the ruins of El Vergel. Action by area property owners and residents and the State re-routed the alignment farther



north (*Jacksonville Florida Times Union*, 19 January 1975). In February 1975, in an effort to assist the owners in selling Fish Island to the State through the Bureau of Natural Resources, the directors of the St. Augustine Historical Society adopted a resolution indicating that "Fish Island is worthy of preservation" (Jesse Fish File SAHSRL). The resolution identified Fish Island as "900 acres, of which 395 acres is high land and the remainder marsh land" (Jesse Fish File SAHSRL). Notwithstanding the effort, the property remained in private hands.

Interest in documenting Jesse Fish and Fish Island resulted in several publications and historical investigations. Professor Robert Gold of Southern Illinois University published in 1969 *Borderlands Empires in Transition: The Triple-Nation Transfer of Florida*, which included a discussion of Fish, and in 1973 Gold published "That Infamous Floridian, Jesse Fish" in *Florida Historical Quarterly*. In 1988, graduate student Natalie Newton completed a master's thesis entitled "Island Man: A Biography of Jesse Fish." Described as a fictional biography, the study examined Fish drawing from historical and contemporary sources. Through the lens of Fish's father, Newton characterized Jesse Fish as "a man who is feared or untrusted" (Newton 1988:63). In a subsequent chapter of the fictional account about El Vergel, Newton (1988:241, 248-250) placed Fish in 1764 on Anastasia Island, where he:

*rode one of his horses stabled on the island as he checked for sites for his planned home deciding to call the estate El Vergel...*

*A trip to Savannah gave him the opportunity to discuss his house plans with the architect there and set a date for construction. The house was to go up in the spring, and as that time approached he travelled to a plantation on an island off Savannah to purchase some slaves. He bought three... On this breezy and sweetly scented day in April, El Vergel was begun. Elias was given control over the three slaves. The woman was being trained to be Jesse's hired housekeeper to work in the island home after it was ready. The two men would provide labor for the orchards. After El Vergel was completed, they were each to receive a small shack at the rear of the house. Elias, being a free man, would get a two room house just north of the plantation house. The architect from Savannah, George Wilson, a graying man of fifty who had never married, but who had managed to stay in fairly good condition from all the running about required by his job, stayed in Jesse's home in town. Wilson had a sly wit. He constantly made biting jokes about the politically charged situation between Mother England and her Great Colonies and was as good at poker as any man Jesse had seen...*

*And so El Vergel went up under Jesse's almost daily supervision. The tradesmen in town were thankful for the work and did excellent jobs, no doubt hoping the home would provide a showplace for their talents. In the truest southern tradition, George had designed an impressive plantation home of two stories with twelve foot ceilings to hold the heat in the summer, five bedrooms upstairs, and downstairs a sitting room off to the left adjoining a library where he could put his office, a formal room to the right for entertaining large numbers of guests, with a formal dining room behind that. Chandeliers were shipped in from New York; velvet curtains came from Charleston; cherry and mahogany furniture came in from Virginia; and all new china and crystal was ordered from England. Four great columns were erected the height of the building in the front, forming an impression of*

*stately grandeur for passing vessels and providing covered porches on both floors. The site of the house was just south of the town so that he could actually sit on his front porch and view the southern portion of the town. As the final details were completed, his anticipation grew. He must have a party, a great party to initiate the grandest house in the territory, and the governor and his friends would be invited.*

Although Newton provided a bibliography for her fictional account, few specific references or citations were included. She ended the study in 1790 with Fish struck by lightning while riding a horse on Anastasia Island, a fate that historians attribute to his son nearly two decades later (Newton 1988:340-341).

More recently, Daniel Schafer offered fresh material on Jesse Fish set within the broader context of "St. Augustine's British Years, 1763-1784" in *El Escribano* (2001). In 2000, the City of St. Augustine annexed Fish Island into its corporate limits. As part of a preliminary investigation, city archaeologist Carl Halbirt estimated the island to measure approximately 3,400 feet in length and 350 feet in width. He conducted an archaeological investigation with students from Flagler College, postulating "it might be possible to find the exact location where the slave cabins were located. Eight small cabins appear on a map dated 1759 that also shows a road through the property, a wharf for shipping produce and a 12-foot wide coquina sentry box manned by a guard who watched for escaping slaves. Their cabins had to be near the main house. We believe that somewhere here is a cemetery where slaves who died are buried. If we find human bone, we have to determine if it's historic or prehistoric" (*St. Augustine Record*, 7 January 2001). Development has continued along State Road 312 and adjacent to Fish Island with the latest projects including the BHK Properties Building just east of the 312 bridge (*St. Augustine Record*, 9 January 2002).



### III. RESEARCH DESIGN AND METHODOLOGY

This chapter provides an overview of the project goals for the current investigation, as well as the field and laboratory procedures employed in order to meet them. Prior to the initiation of fieldwork, a Scope of Work was submitted to the SHPO that took into account project objectives, methods, and expected results. By way of review, it should be noted that the foundations of the former Fish residence are preserved in place with a 25-meter buffer. No further mitigative or protective measures are required in relation to the former residence.

#### **Data Recovery/Mitigation in the Northern Portion of 8SJ62NR**

The primary goal of this study was to mitigate the area north of the residence that was delineated during the Phase I survey (Smith et al. 2003a) and recommended for mitigation by ESI and DNR (letter dated August 13, 2003). This area was informally referred to as the “well and surrounding midden.” Secondary goals were developed in an addendum report (Smith et al. 2003b) to gather additional information regarding the previously identified blockhouse, wharf area, and associated channels (White and Halbirt 2001). The DHR accepted the Scope of Work for all these locations in letters dated August 13 and October 29, 2003.

The data recovery approaches taken in the area proposed for permitting are summarized below:

Well and Midden Area: During the Phase I survey (Smith et al. 2003a), Units 2 and 4 encountered intact portions of a well and midden associated with the Fish Plantation. It was recommended that this area, which measured approximately 625 square meters, be the focus of data recovery excavations to mitigate the adverse effects of proposed development. The mitigation plan for this location included 18 square meters of formal unit excavation followed by machine assisted stripping to open a large horizontal area and expose additional cultural features.

Blockhouse: A depiction of the former appearance of this coquina building was included in Figure 2.27, which was given the caption “Ruins of the old guard/sentry house on Fish’s Island” by J. Carver Harris (ca. 1938). City Archaeologist Carl Halbirt said that he found the blockhouse to be relatively intact approximately 10 years ago, but by the time of the 2001 City survey it “had been destroyed.” After examining the 1938 photo(Figure 2.27), it appears that most of the large coquina wall segments have been removed; a large hole in the midst of the rubble indicates subsurface disturbance as well.

Because of the present demolished condition of the blockhouse, it was proposed that a 1 by 2 meter excavation unit be dug to document any evidence of a builder’s trench prior to the placement of a road segment adjacent to the former structure. Due to the lack of intact subsurface deposits documented in close interval shovel tests, as well as the virtual demolition of the building, a set of profile drawings, maps, and photographs were compiled to provide data recovery and mitigation for this area, and to allow for a closer placement of the road. The of the feature will remain in place and covered with fill.

Wharf Area: Development plans will not affect the wharf area, however, there is a coquina block lined “platform” at the northern end of the wharf that may have served in the

loading/unloading of plantation goods and produce. This feature will remain preserved along the shoreline margin of a residential lot, but the client agreed that further recording of the existing element was a good idea. Tasks included clearing of vegetation, creation of a plan map, limited excavation to reveal construction techniques, and photography to ensure that information related to this feature is formally gathered and retained.

Shoreline Channel: There are a series of channels that border the edges of the Fish property that will remain unaffected by the project, although a wooden walkway is planned that would cross a channel to the west of the Fish residence. Tasks conducted at this crossing location by ESI included clearing of vegetation, creation of an elevation map of the channel, and photography to ensure that information related to this feature is formally gathered and retained.

Offshore Island: A wooden walkway is planned that would extend to the west into the Intracoastal Waterway and be supported by posts. The boardwalk would cross a small offshore island, where a gazebo is planned that would include a stairway that allows access to the island, tides permitting. Subsurface testing of this small island was conducted as part of the present study.

## **Field Methods**

Shovel tests were dug in the data recovery area to supplement those dug during the archaeological survey conducted by the City (White and Halbirt 2001). The City had conducted only limited testing in this location, and additional work had been recommended to determine if significant deposits were present (White and Halbirt 2001:57). Following limited shovel testing, excavation units were placed in areas that exhibited the potential to yield significant results.

When shovel tests were dug, all measured 50 centimeters in diameter and were dug to one meter below surface. Shell recovered in each shovel test was measured in liters and a list was made of all observed shellfish species before the shell was discarded. Field notes contain information regarding soils, degree of disturbance and/or depth of the water table, and descriptions of the surroundings.

Excavation units were assigned a specific designation (e.g., Unit 1, Unit 2, etc), and each was excavated following natural stratigraphic layers, with each stratum removed in arbitrary 10 cm levels when possible. Vertical measurements were recorded as depth in centimeters below a selected point (i.e., highest elevated corner of each unit). Vertical control was accomplished with the use of a line level and metric measuring tape. Throughout excavation close attention was given to distinct changes in soil color and/or composition. Upon completion of each excavation level, the unit floor was cleaned with a trowel and inspected for soil discolorations or other anomalies. The stratigraphy of each unit was drawn and the color of each soil horizon was described using Munsell soil color charts. Select unit profiles were also photographed.

All excavated soil was screened through 6.35 mm (1/4") hardware mesh; the only materials immediately discarded after screening were roots and modern trash. Features were profiled by trowel, mapped, photographed, and recorded using an individual feature form. Samples of feature fill were retained for fine screening and more detailed analysis, as appropriate.



Representative Munsell soil color readings were taken throughout the course of excavation. Photographs and maps were made whenever needed.

The volume of shell from each level in excavation units was measured in liters, and the variety and approximate ratio of shellfish species observed per level was recorded prior to discard. Shell specimens showing use wear or with the appearance of having been a tool were treated as artifacts and retained. All artifacts were rough counted as ceramic, bone, lithic, etc., and placed in clear re-sealable bags according to provenience.

Pertinent field data, including project name, site designation, shovel test or unit number and level, field specimen (FS) number, date, and the excavators' initials, was added to each bag using a permanent marker. Excavation information was recorded on formal shovel test forms and on individual unit forms by level. Other project information was kept in a field notebook.

Following data recovery excavations, archaeological monitoring of mechanically dug trenches was conducted to uncover intact features and maximize data recovery. Thin layers of soil were removed by machine and via shovel scraping, while one or more archaeological monitors inspected each pass of the machine. The operator was instructed to stop whenever subsurface anomalies were encountered, at which time the archaeologists utilized shovels and trowels to clear and investigate the area in question. Features were treated as discussed above.

Field notes contain information regarding soils, degree of disturbance and/or depth of the water table, descriptions of the surroundings, and other pertinent data. All field notes and artifacts are being curated at the ESI office in Jacksonville, Florida.

### **Laboratory Methods**

A standardized catalogue system, initiated during fieldwork, was employed to ensure that provenience data were recorded for each recovered artifact. This record-keeping scheme facilitated subsequent laboratory processing and analysis. In the laboratory, all cultural materials were washed, analyzed, quantified, and rebagged according to provenience. The resulting data were entered into a computer file.

Prehistoric artifacts recovered during fieldwork included St. Johns pottery sherds associated with the Late Woodland/Mississippian period. Historic artifacts were recovered that were dominated by ceramic, glass, and nail fragments. The specific dates of manufacture and the identifying characteristics of the artifact categories recovered were determined based on appropriate references. Presently, all artifacts, field notes, forms, and maps are being housed at the ESI laboratory pending selection of a permanent curation facility.

Artifacts recovered included aboriginal pottery, lithic artifacts, bone and shell tools, and a variety of historic artifacts including ceramics, glass, metal, and building material. The artifact assemblages from the sites were dominated by pottery that represents traditions dating from the Late Archaic through Historic periods. These were the primary dating tools used to associate deposits with cultures and to draw inferences regarding change through time.

In the laboratory, all recovered material was washed, analyzed, quantified, and rebagged by site and according to provenience. The resulting data were entered into a computer file by site. Presently, all field documents including notes, excavation forms, and maps along with the artifacts are temporarily being stored at ESI in Jacksonville until a permanent curation facility is determined.

## Prehistoric Material

Prehistoric artifacts recovered during fieldwork were primarily pottery sherds, in addition to some worked bone and shell, and a small number of lithic artifacts. All prehistoric potsherds were examined, but only those larger than 2 cm in size were subjected to detailed analysis. When possible, rim diameter and vessel form were noted. Small sherds (diminutives) measuring less than 2 cm in size were tabulated but not typed. A general discussion of ceramic terms is presented below.

*Sherd:* Fragment of fired clay pottery.

*Body sherd:* A fragment of the body of a ceramic vessel.

*Rim sherd:* A pottery fragment that contains part of a vessel lip.

*Temper:* An aplastic material added to clay to reduce shrinkage and/or breakage during the drying and firing process; i.e. sand, shell, clay, and/or grog.

*Unidentified:* Exterior surface of sherd is either eroded or is such that its finish cannot be determined with accuracy.

*Diminutive:* Diminutive sherds are smaller than 2 cm square. Typically, such sherds are included in initial artifact counts as a separate category and then removed from higher levels of data analysis.

Whenever possible, prehistoric potsherds were classified according to published pottery types for the region, although precautions were taken not to force sherds into existing ceramic classifications. Those sherds not easily recognized were described based on surface treatment and paste characteristics. Diagnostic ceramics were used to identify aboriginal cultural affiliations and to determine the relative dates for site activities. Pottery classifications found at the four sites are described below.

Orange (2300 - 1000 BC): This is among the oldest pottery in North America. It is tempered with vegetal fibers (Spanish moss and/or palmetto frond strands) that upon firing burn out leaving numerous vermicular or worm-like grooves in the clay body. Varieties of this pottery type include plain and incised, both of which were recovered during investigations.

St. Johns (500 BC - AD 1565+): A distinctive aboriginal pottery that exhibits a chalky tactual quality due to the presence of microscopic freshwater sponge spicules. The typically soft character of the ware makes it susceptible to surface erosion and weathering. Most St. Johns



sherds are either plain or check stamped, although some may be scraped or simple stamped. Other decorations also exist.

## Historic Material

The historic artifacts recovered from excavations are primarily associated with the Fish Plantation occupation, although later squatter occupations are known to have occurred after the Fish era was over (see Chapter 2). Several of the more common historic artifact types encountered are given a short discussion below.

After basic analysis to identify and quantify the artifacts has been completed, archaeologists have many options in analyzing the resultant numerical data. A major factor in the interpretations drawn from a site derives from the way artifacts are classified into meaningful groups. The patterns that emerge from the systematic grouping of artifacts provide a basis for comparison with other sites of like kind. The importance of pattern recognition was first outlined by South (1977), with the dual intention of identifying "law-like" cultural generalizations, while also providing insights on relationships, similarities, and differences between archaeological sites. The latter goal is more often realized.

Historic artifacts were categorized by function using a system adapted from Orser (1988a: 233). All recovered artifacts were identified by type and classified with reference to functional groups (labor related, kitchen artifacts, household furnishings, personal items, and weaponry) with one exception related to faunal remains, which were treated as a separate analytical category using bone only from closed contexts (Table 3.1). Use of Orser's functionally based typology provides a means for interpreting the relative importance of specific artifact classes at the site, and for drawing interpretations based on the known socioeconomic, historical, and cultural climate of the period under study.

After completion of artifact analysis, frequencies for each of the artifact groups were tabulated for discussion and interpretation in the report. The functional categories that were used reflect some adaptations to better account for the material recovered. For example a category for modern material as well as miscellaneous artifacts that could not be identified by function was added (#6), as was a category for aboriginal pottery and stone tool remains (#7) in multicomponent contexts.

Several types of ceramics were the primary means for ascribing dates to stratified deposits and features, and those most common are briefly discussed below. The descriptions are based on information gleaned from a variety of sources (Noel-Hume 1969, 1974; South 1974, 1977; Miller 1980, 1991; and others) that were used in the present analyses. In dating utilize a fairly recent list of Terminus Post Quem dates compiled by George Miller (1992).

**TABLE 3.1: Functional Artifact Typology**

1. Foodways
  - a. Procurement--ammunition, fishhooks, fishing weights
  - b. Preparation--baking pans, cooking vessels, large knives
  - c. Service--fine earthenware, flatware, tableware, drinking glass
  - d. Storage--coarse earthenware, stoneware, glass bottles, canning jars, bottle stoppers
  - e. Remains --floral, faunal
2. Clothing
  - a. Fasteners--buttons, eyelets, snaps, hooks and eyes
  - b. Manufacture--needles, pins, scissors, thimbles
  - c. Other--shoe leather, metal shoe shanks, clothes hangers
3. Household/Structural
  - a. Architectural/Construction--nails, flat glass, spikes, mortar, bricks, slate
  - b. Hardware--hinges, tacks, nuts, bolts, staples, hooks, brackets
  - c. Furnishings/Accessories--stove parts, furniture pieces, lamp parts, fasteners
4. Personal
  - a. Medicinal--medicine bottles, droppers
  - b. Cosmetic--hairbrushes, hair combs, jars
  - c. Recreational--smoking pipes, toys, musical instruments, souvenirs
  - d. Monetary--coins
  - e. Decorative--jewelry, hairpins, hatpins, spectacles
  - f. Other--pocketknives, fountain pens, pencils, inkwells
5. Labor
  - a. Agricultural--barbed wire, horse and mule shoes, harness buckles, hoes, plow blades, scythe blades
  - b. Industrial--tools
6. Miscellaneous/Unidentified Substances
  - a. Glass
  - b. Iron
  - c. Modern
  - d. Lead
  - e. Diminutive coarse earthenware sherds less than 2 cm in size
7. Aboriginal
  - a. Ceramics
  - b. Lithic material
  - c. Worked bone
  - d. Worked shell



## Earthenwares

*Olive jar* (ca. 1490-1800): Olive jars are very common at colonial sites in Florida and are primarily dated by their shapes (Goggin 1960). These were large, amphora-shaped vessels with small collared necks that were used for storage and shipping. Some examples have lead glazed surfaces, most commonly green.

*Tin enameled wares* (ca. 16<sup>th</sup>-18<sup>th</sup> Century): Tin enameled wares including majolica, delft, and faience were made throughout Europe during the colonial period; some majolica was also made in Mexico. precluded accurate identifications, but type names were assigned whenever possible according to established references (Goggin 1968; Deagan 1987; and others).

*Stoneware* (ca. 16<sup>th</sup>-19<sup>th</sup> Century): This is a common storage ware made throughout Europe and, later, the United States. Known types such as Rhenish and Westerwald were recovered in addition to what is thought to be British brown stoneware used for tankards, ca. 1690 to 1775 (Colonial Williamsburg Foundation 1987).

*Jackfield*: this is a black lead glazed ware with dense gray to black paste. It was used for pitchers, tea services, and other tablewares from 1745 to 1790 (Colonial Williamsburg Foundation 1987).

## Refined Earthenwares

*Creamware* (ca. 1760-1810) – A refined earthenware exhibiting a yellowish or cream-colored paste made primarily in England that has a yellowish or yellowish-green cast on the surface of the sherd. Creamware was made and used in America well into the 19<sup>th</sup> Century (Cusick 1993).

*Pearlware* (ca. 1775-1840) - A refined earthenware having a white paste and a clear lead glaze to which a small amount of cobalt was added (Noel-Hume 1969:128-129). As a result, Pearlware glaze exhibits a characteristic bluish or greenish cast that is a deeper in color where it puddles in the crevices of a vessel (footrings, handles, etc.). Subtypes of decorated Pearlware such as Annularware and Mocha were also recovered. According to Noel-Hume (1969:130), pearlware was the predominant common tableware in this country by ca. 1810, and was on its way out of usage during the 1820s, "being superceded by various forms of hard white wares that are extremely difficult to date with accuracy (unless bearing factory marks)." As mentioned above, however, both pearlware and creamware were made and used in America well into the 19<sup>th</sup> Century. Recent research in St. Augustine (Cusick 1993) suggests a continued preference for both creamware and pearlware in Spanish and Minorcan households throughout the Second Spanish period.

*Whiteware* (ca. 1815+) - A refined earthenware that possesses a hard, nonporous white paste and a clear colorless lead glaze. It too can exhibit blue "pooling" in vessel crevices, which can cause some confusion in distinguishing between whiteware and pearlware.

*Ironstone* (ca. 1813+) - A refined earthenware similar to whiteware that often has a crazed surface and contains varying amounts of ferruginous oxides. Also known as graniteware or stone china, it has been described as being a "cold grayish-white color" (Lofstrom 1976:23).

In addition to pottery, it is important for historical archaeologists to utilize the entire artifact assemblage in interpreting dates of site occupation, socioeconomic status, and cultural affiliation. Additional temporal markers can include coins, buttons, ginger beer bottles, kaolin pipe fragments, and other artifacts with makers' marks or other diagnostic attributes.

### **Procedures to Deal With Unexpected Results**

Archaeologists frequently encounter unanticipated features or sites that require efforts that exceed the scope of project expectations. In such cases it is sometimes necessary to reevaluate the research design and/or seek additional funding to address unexpected discoveries. It is our policy to amend a project research design as needed to ensure that proper treatment and evaluation are afforded to unexpected findings. Coordination with the office of the SHPO is a necessary step in such an approach. Unexpected findings might also occur during project construction and could include the discovery of human remains, which would require additional coordination with the state archaeologist in compliance with Chapter 872.05, Florida Statutes, or a medical examiner if the remains appear less than 75 years old.

### **Informant Interviews**

Locating archaeological sites and gaining familiarity with the history of a project tract is often facilitated through interviewing local citizens that live or spend time within close proximity to the parcel. Carl Halbirt, City of St. Augustine Archaeologist, was interviewed prior to the commencement of fieldwork. Mr. Halbirt said that he first saw the blockhouse approximately 10 years ago, and found that it was largely intact, except for the roof and portions of the walls. He revisited the location during the City survey (White and Halbirt 2001) and found that the structure had been "destroyed," noting too that extensive disturbances to the ground surface surrounding the structural remains had occurred. These observations are consistent with those of ESI, as discussed more fully below.

The report Halbirt co-authored with Andrea White (2001) was consulted in developing the research design and methodology described above.



#### IV. RESULTS

The data recovery/mitigation in the northern portion of 8SJ62NR took place from July through December 2003. In addition to the mitigation of the well and surrounding midden area north of the foundations of the Fish Plantation residence, fieldwork focused on the previously identified blockhouse, a portion of the wharf, a small offshore island, and a channel along the western marsh edge of the site (White and Halbirt 2001). Scopes of work had been previously submitted for review and approved by DHR.

##### **Data Recovery and Mitigation in the Northern Portion of 8SJ62NR**

Four excavation units (5 through 8) were dug prior to mechanical stripping with a backhoe. The excavations were placed in areas with potential to yield significant results, and served to supplement shovel tests and four units (1 through 4) that had been dug during the initial ESI investigation (Smith et al. 2003a). Figure 4.1 shows the excavations, with the exception of Unit 3, which was dug south of Unit 4 in a location not targeted for additional work. Excavation results from Units 5, 6, 7, and 8 are discussed below, with artifacts recovered by arbitrary 10 cm levels seen in Tables 4.1 and 4.2. The presentation of data from the larger mitigation areas follows the unit discussions.

##### Unit 5:

This was a 2 by 4 meter excavation oriented north south to encompass previously dug Unit 2 and expose the east profile of the well (Feature 1) identified during the initial survey. Unit 2 was a 50 cm wide trench dug to verify that the depression was a well. The excavation unit revealed a disturbed layer followed by two distinct intact layers (Figure 4.2). Stratum I extended to approximately 10 cm below surface. Stratum II was dark grayish-brown sand below the disturbed layer to approximately 30 cm below surface. Stratum III extended from 30 to 60 cm below surface and consisted of pale brown sand into which a number of features intruded.

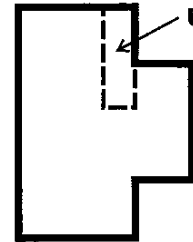
Excluding features, Unit 5 yielded 241 artifacts that included historic and prehistoric remains (Table 4.1). Considering artifact deposition by stratum, 40 were recovered from the upper zone, 102 from Stratum II, and 99 were recovered from Stratum III. The deepest layer was where the majority of the prehistoric pottery was recovered.

The historic artifacts consisted of 185 fragments assigned to five functional categories including service, storage, hardware, building materials, and miscellaneous artifacts with unspecified function. By far the service category was the best represented with 92 artifacts (or 49.9%) that included Annularware, Creamware, Gaudy Dutch, Pearlware, porcelain, and Whiteware. Small amounts of Olive Jar and earthenware represent the storage category, while 58 and 11 artifacts reflected hardware and building material, respectively. The unknown category consisted of curved glass fragments that could not be identified as to function.

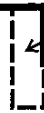
Unit 1



Unit 5



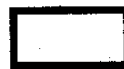
Unit 2



Unit 6



Unit 8



Unit 7



Unit 4



0 1m 2m



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Excavation Units at 8SJ62 NR  
**Fish Island**  
St. Johns County, Florida

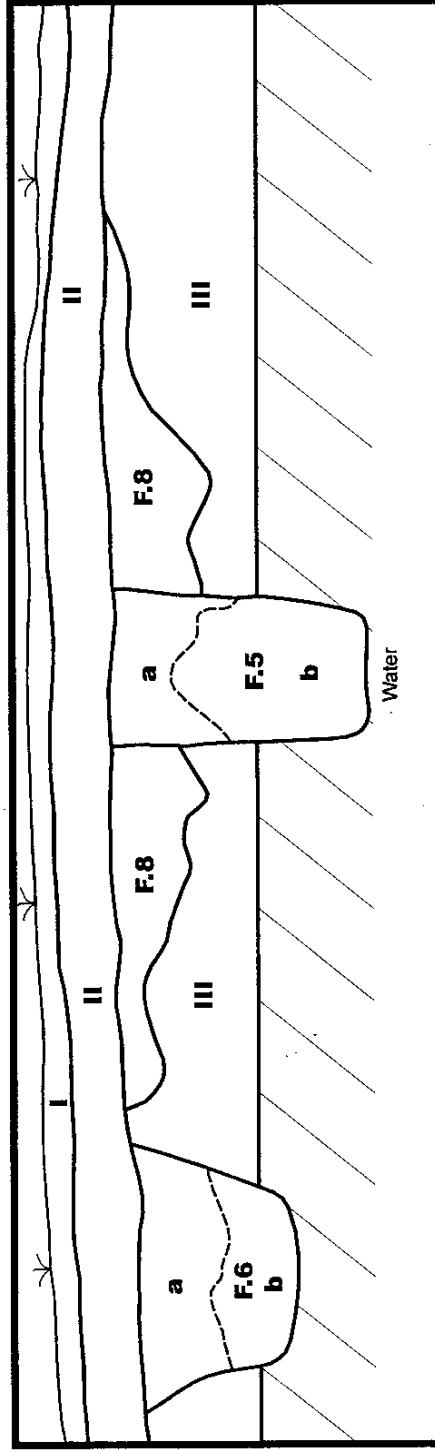
Figure: 4.1

Project: EJ00313.03

Date: April 2004



**TU #5 West Wall Profile**



- Legend:**
- I - 10YR 3/2 Very dark grayish brown
  - II - 10YR 4/2 Dark grayish brown
  - III - 10YR 7/3 Very pale brown
  - F.5 - 2.5Y 4/2a w/ 2.5Y 6/3 (b)
  - F.6 - 2.5Y 5/2a w/ 2.5Y 7/3 (b)
  - F.8 - 10YR 5/2

0 20cm



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West Profile of Unit 5, 8SJ62 NR  
**Fish Island**  
St. Johns County, Florida

Figure: 4.2
Project: EJ00313.03
Date: April 2004

**Table 4.1. Artifacts Recovered from Unit 5 by Level, 8SJ62NR**

Artifact Description	Level 1	Level 2	Level 3	Level 4	Level 5	Level 6	Level 7	Total
annular ware		9	3	4				16
creamware					1			1
earthenware				1				1
gaudy dutch	1		1	1				3
olive jar			1					1
Pearlware	7	18	10	7	4			46
porcelain	1		1					a
stoneware glazed					1			1
whiteware	10	7	3	4				24
ceramic, UID	1			2				3
curved glass		6	1					7
curved glass, dk gr	2		4	3	2			11
brick	2	3	1		5			11
iron UID	9	11	11	2	4		2	39
square nail, iron	2	3	5	3	5	1		19
St. Johns eroded		1						1
St. Johns plain	2	1		4	3			10
Swift Creek comp stmpd				3	3	1		7
sand tempered plain	1	1		12	6	2		22
Orange incised					1			1
Orange zoned				1		1		2
diminutive sherds	2		1	4	5			12
NDF, chert patinated							1	1
<b>Total</b>	<b>40</b>	<b>60</b>	<b>42</b>	<b>51</b>	<b>40</b>	<b>5</b>	<b>3</b>	<b>241</b>

The prehistoric artifacts that were recovered from non-feature fill within Unit 5 consisted of 55 pottery sherds and one chert nondecortication flake. The sherds included St. Johns plain and indeterminate, Swift Creek complicated stamped, sand tempered plain, and Orange fiber tempered incised and zoned.

#### Unit 5 Extension:

Figure 4.3 is a photograph that shows the east profile of combined Units 2 and 5 and a view of Feature 1 in plan. At that point the excavation was expanded to the east to fully reveal the central shaft of the well. Artifacts recovered from the extension in non-feature fill were combined with those from the same level in Unit 5, and were included in the above table.

*Feature 1 (Well)* - Figure 4.4 shows the well construction Pit in plan at 50 cmbs. The construction pit for this well measured 110 cmbs and 160 cm across. Several coquina blocks were found within and around this well, possibly indicating that it was lined at the surface. No evidence of a barrel or other wooden supports was found at the bottom of the well. In the southeastern corner of the unit was Feature 29 (seen excavated in Figure 4.4), as discussed below. A profile drawing of the east profile of Feature 1 is seen in Figure 4.5.



Figure 4.4), as discussed below. A profile drawing of the east profile of Feature 1 is seen in Figure 4.5.

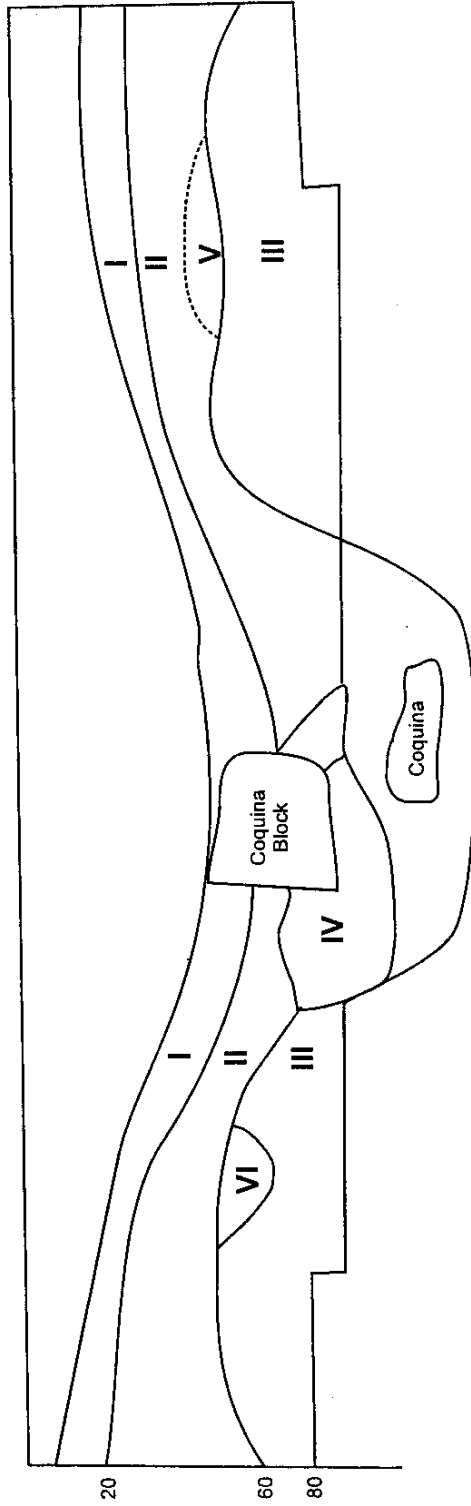


**Figure 4.3. East Profile of Units 2 and 5 Showing Feature 1, 8SJ62NR**



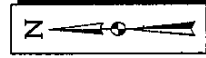
**Figure 4.4: Feature 1 in Plan view, 8SJ62NR**

Feature 1 yielded 165 artifacts that included historic and prehistoric remains. The historic artifacts included ceramics associated with the 18<sup>th</sup> and 19<sup>th</sup> Centuries, along with bottle glass, building material, hardware, and personal items such as a pocketknife and kaolin pipe fragments.



- Legend:
- I - 10YR 5/2
  - II - 10YR 4/1
  - III - 10YR 6/4 with 10YR 7/2
  - IV - 10YR 2/1
  - V - 10YR 3/2
  - VI - 10YR 6/3

20cm



East Profile, Feature 1, 8SJ62NR

## Fish Island

St. Johns County, Florida

Figure: 4.5

Project: EJ00313.03

Date: April 2004



The prehistoric artifacts included St. Johns Plain, Swift Creek complicated stamped, and sand tempered plain pottery sherds.

*Feature 5-* The shape of this feature and its proximity to well Feature 1 (one meter to the east) suggested it was a large posthole associated with a roof over the well. This feature was 44 cm in diameter, 72 cm deep, and had a flat bottom with straight sides (Figure 4.2). It was intrusive on Feature 8, discussed below. One piece of orcelain, one St. Johns plain, and one sand tempered plain sherd were within the feature, in addition to 20 liters of shell that was 95% oyster.

*Feature 6-* This pit contained five liters of oyster shell and no artifacts. It measured 52 cm in diameter, 44 cm deep, and had a flat base (Figure 4.2). No function was determined other than trash disposal.

*Feature 8-* This was a shallow soil stain that had an irregular base. As seen in the profile (Figure 4.2), it may have been created during the placement of the Feature 5 posthole. It contained no artifacts.

*Feature 29-* This pit was in the southeastern corner of the Unit 5 Extension and extended out from the walls 34 cm south, 36 cm west, and had a depth of 31 cm (Figure 4.4). It contained no artifacts, and the absence of shell and charcoal leaves its function unclear.

#### Units 6, 7, and 8:

Units 6, 7, and 8 will be discussed together due to their close proximity and similar strata. These three units measure 10 square meters and were placed around Unit 4, which was dug during the initial survey and encountered a possible historic midden. Unit 6 was a 1 by 4 meter excavation oriented west to east located eight meters south of Unit 5 and two meters north of Unit 7; Unit 7 measured one by four meters oriented north south and was placed 50 cm to the east of Unit 4; Unit 8 was placed 50 cm west of Unit 7 and measured one by two meters oriented east-west.

Stratum I was encountered at ground surface and extended to approximately 10 cm below surface. Stratum II was grayish-brown sand that extends under the plow zone (0-10 cm) to approximately 28 cm below surface. Stratum III extended from 22 to 42 cm below surface and consisted of light brownish-gray sand into which a number of features intruded. Stratum IV was light yellowish-brown sand that extended from 38 to 70 cm below surface.

A total of 935 artifacts were recovered from Units 6, 7, and 8, and are presented in Table 4.2. Considering artifacts with regard to stratigraphic layer, Strata I and II are nearly identical, and included American slipware, annular ware, creamware, hand painted Pearlware, Jackfield, yellow ware, pearlware, Reyware, stoneware, and whiteware ceramics, along with square nails, kaolin pipe fragments, bottle glass, and slate. Prehistoric artifacts recovered from Strata I and II included St. Johns plain and check stamped, sand tempered plain, and diminutive pottery sherds. Stratum III/IV yielded one square nail fragment and one Orange incised sherd.



**Table 4.2. Artifacts Recovered from Units 6-8 by 10 cm Levels, 8SJ62NR**

<b>Artifact Description</b>	<b>Level 1</b>	<b>Level 2</b>	<b>Level 3</b>	<b>Level 4</b>	<b>Level 5</b>	<b>Level 6</b>	<b>Total</b>
American slipware	1	4	9	3			17
annular ware	12	15	6	5	1		39
creamware	12	24	22	7	3		68
earthenware	2	3	2	1	1		9
El Morro		1	2				3
hand painted Pearlware	2	2	3	1	2		10
Jackfield			1	1			2
majolica		1					1
Marineware		2		1			3
olive jar		2	1	1			4
pearlware	42	59	32	20			153
refined earthenware			1	1			2
Reyware	4	1	4				9
porcelain	1	1	4				6
slipware	1	1	1		2		5
spatterware		1	1				2
Spongeware	1						1
Staffordshire slipware		1					1
stoneware	2	4	2				8
whiteware	27	33	10	3	2		75
yellow ware	1		3	1			5
ceramic, UID			1				1
bottle glass, dk gr	3		1				4
curved glass	15	18	5				38
flat glass, clear		2					2
bone modified UID	1		1				2
button		1	3				4
kaolin pipe		5	3		1		9
building material	2	11	10		1		24
gunflint		1	1				2
hone, sandstone				1			1
iron UID	20	86	51	26	6		189
slate		2					2
spike, brass			1				1
square nail, iron	13	74	45	14	2	1	149
St. Johns sherds	4	4	2	8	2		20
sand tempered	1	2	6	16			25
Orange fiber tempered sherds						2	2
diminutive sherds	4	5	6	12	9		36
whelk receptacle				1			1
<b>Total</b>	<b>171</b>	<b>366</b>	<b>240</b>	<b>123</b>	<b>32</b>	<b>3</b>	<b>935</b>

Between 30 and 40 cm below surface, 15 soil anomalies were detected. Of these, eight were pit features and seven were posts. Six of the pits and seven posts were revealed during the excavation of Unit 7 (Figure 4.6), while the remaining two pits (Features 23 and 24) were revealed in Unit 8 (Figure 4.7). The pit and post features are discussed in more detail below.

*Feature 9-* This large shell pit measured 72 cm north/south, 80 cm east/west, and 30 cm deep. There were 36 liters of oyster in the fill, which included no artifacts.

*Feature 10-* This was a medium sized, historic trash pit that extended into the Unit 7 west profile; its complete dimensions were not determined. Feature 10 measured 48 cm north/south and over 40 cm east/west, with a depth of 20 cm. This feature had 12 liters of shell (almost entirely oyster), one Pearlware sherd, and one St. Johns check stamped sherd.

*Feature 11-* This shallow pit feature measured nearly 50 cm east-west, and 30 cm north-south. The pit ranged in depth from 40 to 50 cm below datum, with a post mold extending from the bottom of the pit to approximately 68 cm below datum. The feature fill consisted of dark gray sand and shell.

*Feature 16-* This shallow trash pit was 8 cm deep and 62 cm in diameter. It was clearly defined when excavated by color and content, so it appears to represent the opportunistic use of a low area in the soil for dumping rather than an actual excavated pit for dumping. Feature 16 contained one piece of Reyware, three sand tempered plain, and one diminutive sherd.

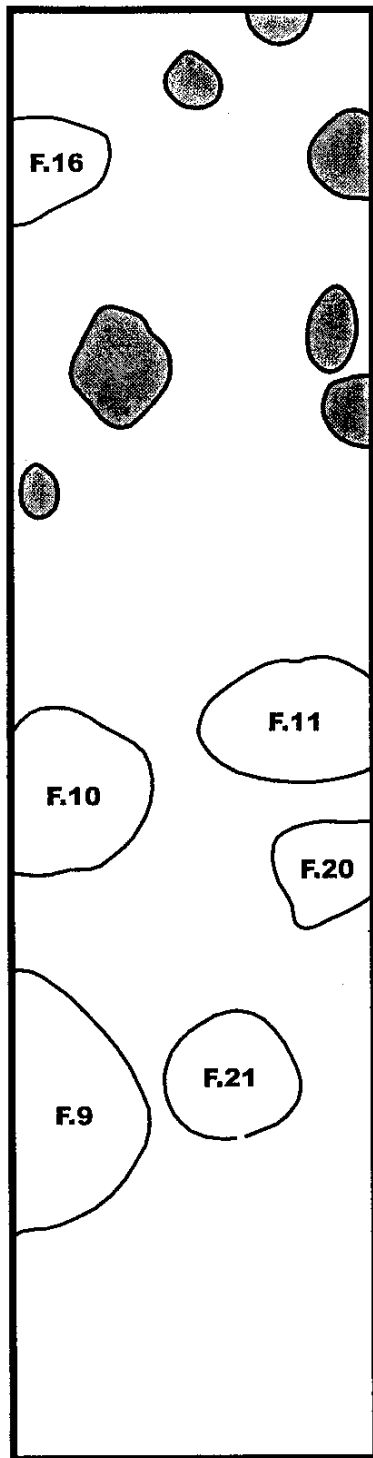
*Feature 20-* This was a rectangular shaped pit that contained no artifacts. There were 2 liters of shell within this feature. No function could be determined other than trash disposal.

*Feature 21-* This bowl shaped pit feature was uncovered in the south-central portion of Unit 7 at 40 cm below surface. The feature measured 35 cm in diameter and extended to 56 cm below datum. Feature fill consisted of dark gray sand with scattered shell. No artifacts were recovered from Feature 21.

*Feature 23-* This was a large, shallow pit that extended into the south wall of Unit 8 (Figure 4.6). The pit measured at least 86 cm east/west and 58 cm north/south and 26 cm deep. There were small concentrations of oyster and clam scattered throughout this feature with a total of 1 liter of mostly whole shell.

*Feature 24-* This pit extended into the north wall of Unit 8, measuring 30 cm north/south, 90 cm east/west, and 18 cm deep (Figure 4.6). There was one-half liter of shell within the fill, most of that crushed oyster.

*Post Features-* In addition to the pit features described above, Unit 7 revealed seven posts (Features 12-15 and 17-19). Four of the posts (Features 13-14 and 17-18) formed a circular pattern in the northern end of the unit at 40 cm below surface. The remaining posts (Features 12, 15, and 19) were recovered on the outside of the ring formation. All of the posts had round bases and extended in depth from 48 to 65 cm below surface.



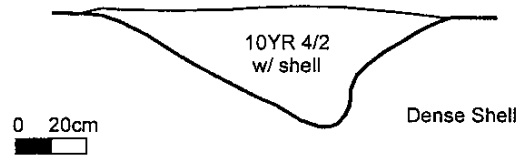
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Legend:

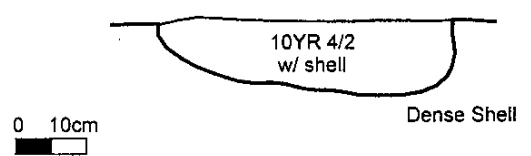
- Post



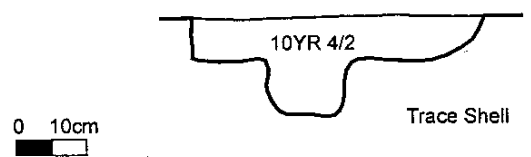
**F.9**



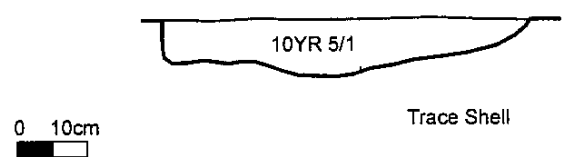
**F.10**



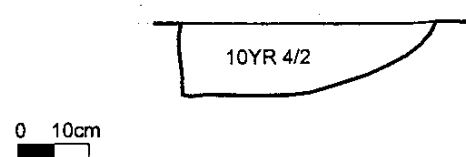
**F.11**



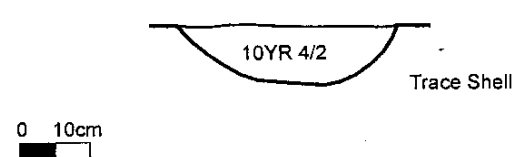
**F.16**



**F.16**



**F.21**



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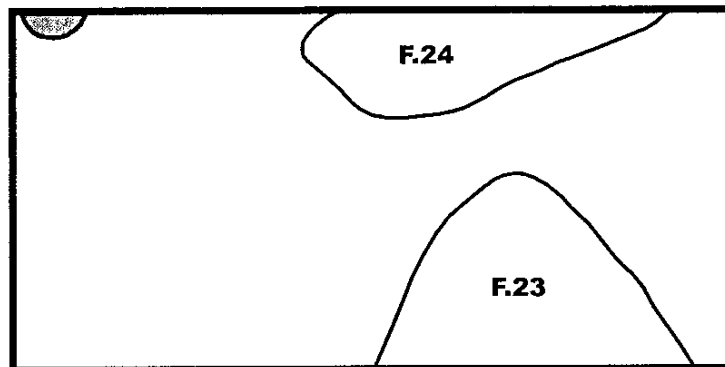
Plan View and Profiles of Features from  
Unit 7, 8SJ62 NR  
**Fish Island**  
St. Johns County, Florida

Figure: 4.6

Project: EJ00313.03

Date: April 2004





Unit 7

0 20cm



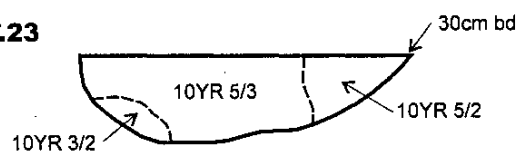
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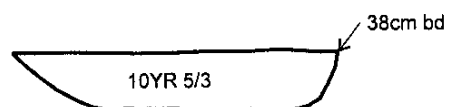
- Post



**F.23**



**F.24**



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Plan View and Profiles of  
Features Recovered from Unit 8, 8SJ62 NR  
**Fish Island**  
St. Johns County, Florida

Figure: 4.7

Project: EJ00313.03

Date: April 2004

## Trench 1

Trench 1 was a mechanically assisted excavation that extended from Unit 6 north passing Unit 5 to the west (Figures 4.8 and 4.9). This block measured approximately 52 square meters and was excavated by machine to a depth of 30 cm below surface; shovels were then used to reveal cultural features. During the investigation of Trench 1, three pit features, five agricultural furrows, and 21 posts were revealed.

*Feature 90-* This pit measured 50 cm east/west, 65 cm north/south, and 26 cm deep (Figure 4.10). There was 12 liters of oyster shell within this feature and no artifacts.

*Feature 92-* This large pit extended into the water table; its depth could not be calculated, but it was over 20 cm (Figure 4.10). This feature measured 80 cm north/south and 60 cm east/west. Only a trace of shell was present and no artifacts.

*Feature 93-* This large shell pit was rectangular in shape, measuring 125 cm east/west, 100 cm north/south, and over 20 cm deep, its exact depth was undetermined due to a high water table (Figure 4.10). There was over 30 liters of oyster within this feature and no artifacts.

*Post Features-* Twenty-one posts were revealed during the excavation of Trench 1. Of these, three forms were noted. The post in the southern portion of the trench was shallow with a flat bottom. The six posts associated with the central agricultural furrows averaged 15 cm in diameter and extended approximately 8 cm to a point. Surrounding Feature 92 in the central portion of Trench 1 were 14 posts that formed an arc-like shape (Figure 4.9). These posts ranged in size from 10 to 18 cm in diameter and extended 8 to 13 cm in depth.

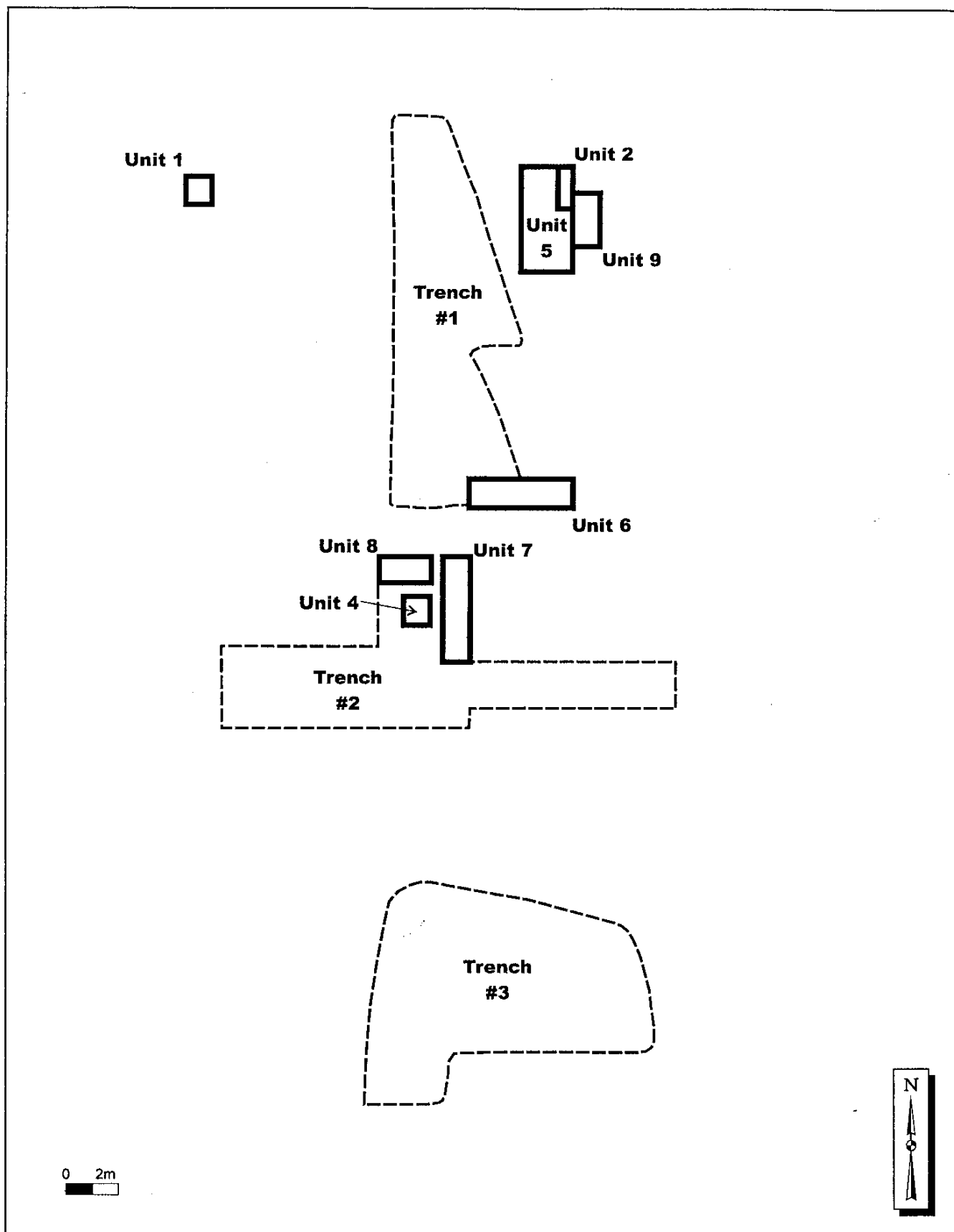
## Trench 2

Trench 2 was a mechanically assisted excavation located south and west of Units 7 and 8, along with a narrow trench that extended east from the southernmost point of Unit 7 (Figures 4.8 and 4.11). This trench exposed approximately 38 square meters and was excavated to a depth of 30 cm below surface by machine, after which shovels were used to reveal cultural features. During the investigation of Trench 2, seven pit features, four agricultural furrows, and 10 posts were revealed. In addition to these, Features 9 and 23 were further exposed.

*Feature 70-* This small bowl shaped pit was encountered in the south-central portion of the trench. The pit measured 43 cm in diameter that extended from 35 cm to 47 cm below surface (Figure 4.12). Feature fill consisted of dark gray sand that contained no shell or artifacts.

*Feature 72-* This was a medium sized, flat bottomed pit that measured 12 cm deep, 33 cm wide, and over 30 cm long (Figure 4.12). It extended into the wall of mechanical Trench 2. There was one iron fragment and a trace of shell present in the feature fill.

*Feature 73-* This shallow pit feature was encountered in the western portion of Trench 1 adjacent to an agricultural furrow (Feature 82). This circular pit measured 42 cm in diameter and extended 8 cm (Figure 4.12). No artifacts or shell were recovered from feature fill.



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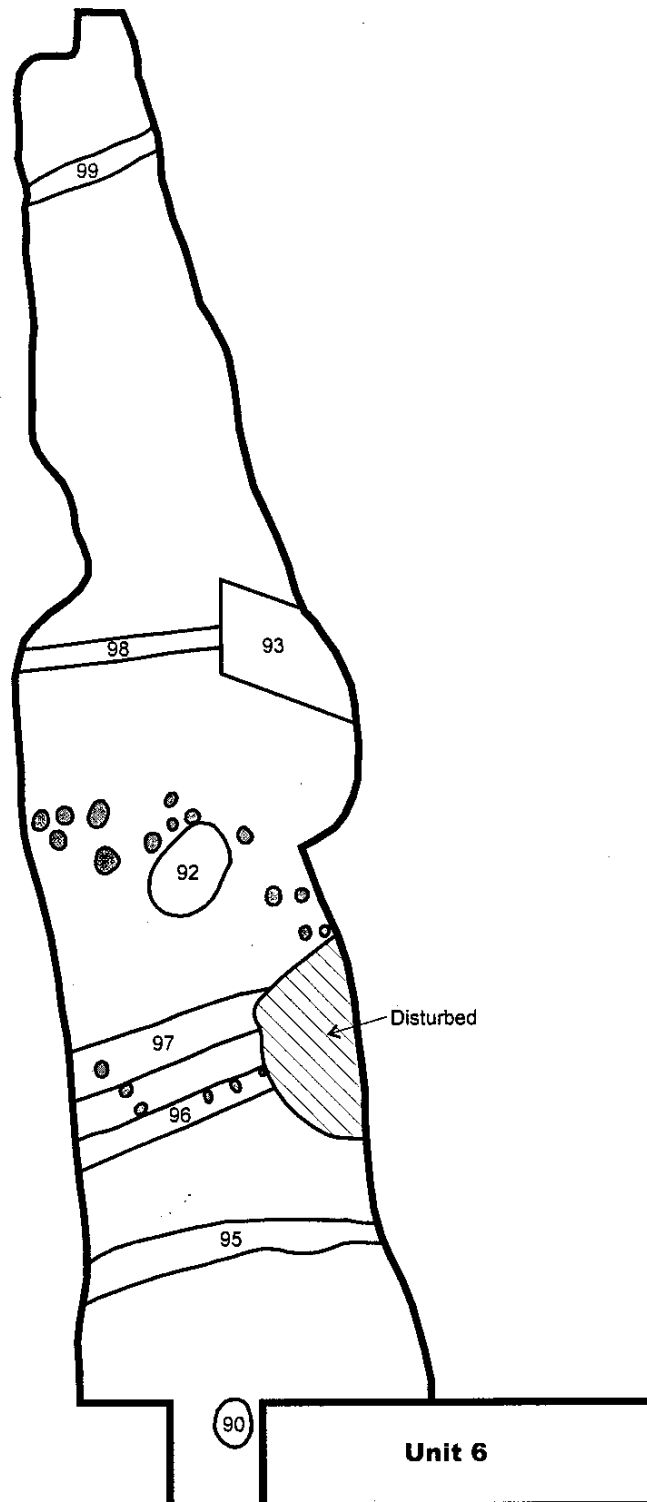
Trench Locations, 8SJ62 NR  
**Fish Island**  
St. Johns County, Florida

Figure: 4.8

Project: EJ00313.03

Date: April 2004





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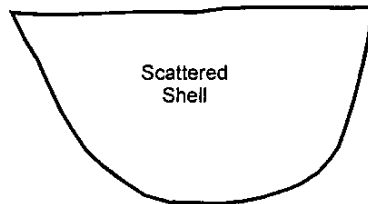
Plan View of Trench #1, 8SJ62 NR  
**Fish Island**  
St. Johns County, Florida

Figure: 4.9

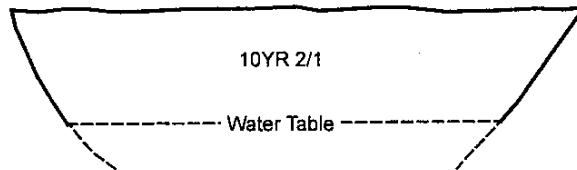
Project: EJ00313.03

Date: April 2004

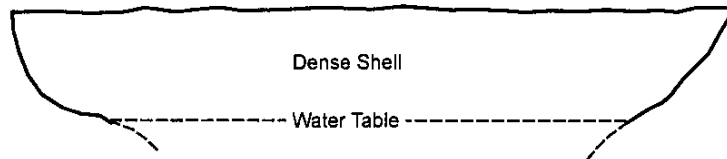
**F.90**



**F.92**



**F.93**



0 10cm



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Profiles of Pit Features from  
Trench #1, 8SJ62 NR  
**Fish Island**  
St. Johns County, Florida

Figure: 4.10
Project: EJ00313.03
Date: April 2004

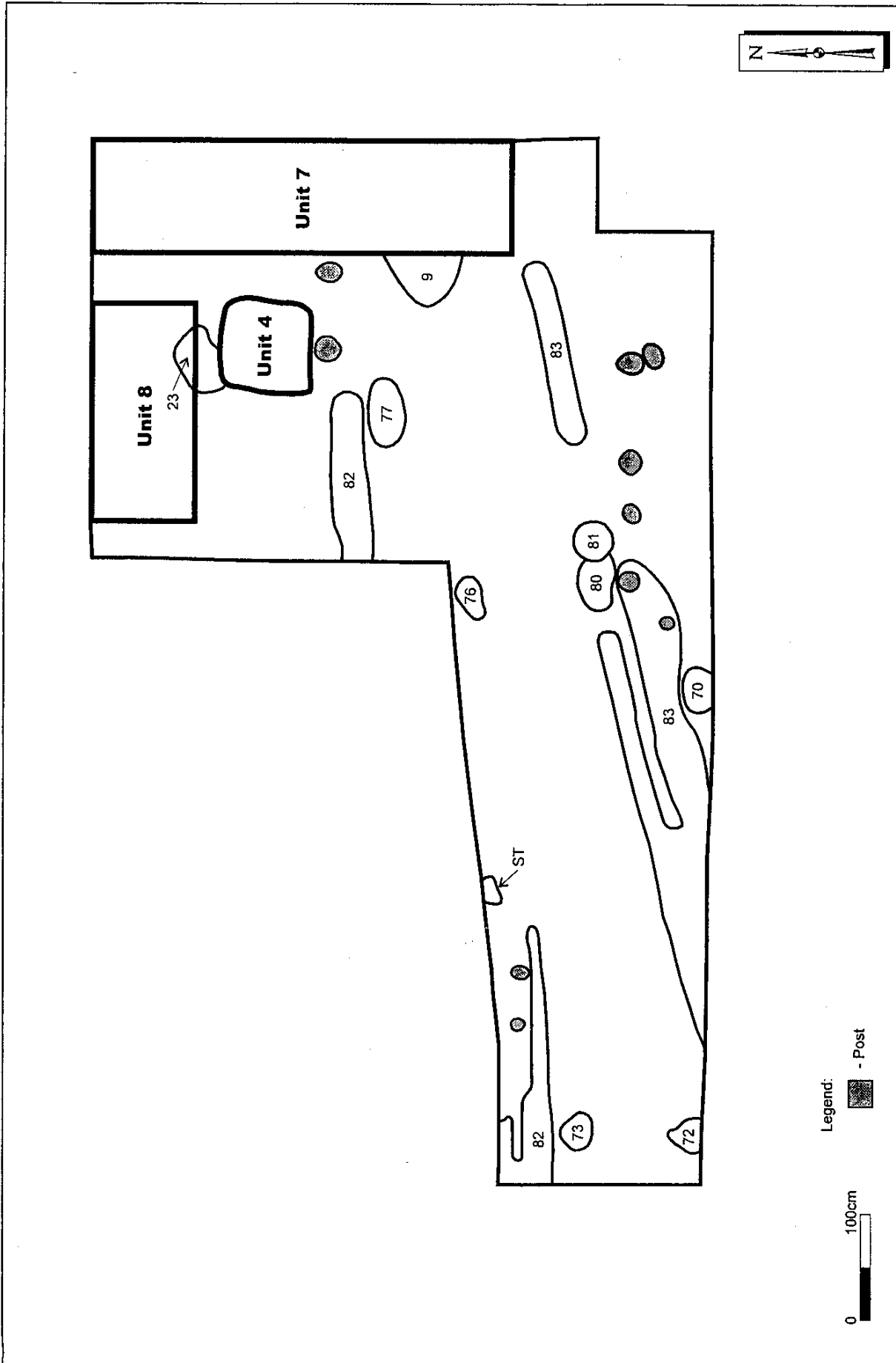


Figure:	4.11
Project:	EJ00313.03
Date:	April 2004

Plan View of Trench #2, 8SJ62 NR  
**Fish Island**  
 St. Johns County, Florida



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**F.70 South Wall**



No artifacts, trace shell

**F.81 West Profile**



No artifacts, mod. Shell,  
black soil

**F.72 South Wall**



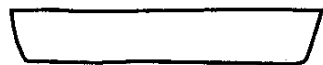
1 iron frag. Scant shell

**F.76 NW Profile**



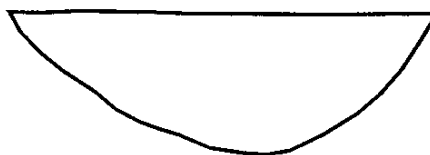
No artifacts, scant shell

**F.73 West Wall**



No artifacts

**F.77 North Profile**



No artifacts, 1/2 L shell

**F.80 West Profile**



2 pcs. iron, scant shell

0 10cm



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Profiles of Pit Features from  
Trench #2, 8SJ62 NR  
**Fish Island**  
St. Johns County, Florida

Figure: 4.12

Project: EJ00313.03

Date: April 2004

*Feature 76-* This pit feature measured 37 cm in diameter and was oval shaped. The profile indicated the western side of the feature was shallow, while the eastern formed a point that extended nearly 10 cm deeper (Figure 4.12). The feature fill contained only a trace of shell.

*Feature 77-* This feature measured 60 cm in diameter and was 20 cm deep (Figure 4.12); it contained one-half a liter of shell but had no artifacts within it. The purpose of this pit is unclear other than as a trash pit for general cleaning of the site.

*Feature 80-* This historic feature was one of a series of historic agricultural furrows present in this area. This particular trench was 36 cm across, 15 cm deep (Figure 4.12), and over 7.5 meters long (the trench entered a wall at the west end so its full length could not be determined).

*Feature 81-* This historic feature was located in the central portion of Trench 2. The feature measured nearly 30 cm in diameter and 12 cm deep. The western portion of the feature impacted Feature 80. The feature fill consisted of black sand with moderate amounts of shell. No artifacts were recovered from Feature 81.

*Agricultural Furrows-* Features 82 and 83 designate two series of broken agricultural furrows that transverse Trench 2 at an approximately 250-degree angle. These long but narrow furrows were somewhat irregular in Trench 2; however, the profiles indicated a steep walled bowl shape.

*Posts-* Ten post features were revealed during the excavation of Trench 2. The posts ranged in diameter from 15 to 20 cm, and were 10 to 16 cm deep. All of the posts were in close proximity and in alignment with the two agricultural furrows. Their positioning suggests an agricultural function for the posts, possibly as fencing or supports for plantings.

**Table 4.3. Posts Recovered from Trench 2**

Post Feature	Shape	Depth (cm)	Post Mold
66	round	16	no
67	flat bottom	12	no
68	flat bottom	6	no
69	flat bottom	14	no
71	flat bottom	10	yes
72	round	10	no
73	round	12	no
74	round	6	no
78	v-shaped	36	no
79	v-shaped	6	no

### Trench 3

Trench 1 was a mechanically assisted excavation beginning at Unit 6 and extending north past Unit to the west (Figures 4.8 and 4.13). This trench measured approximately 52 square meters and was excavated to a depth of 30 cm below surface. During the investigation of Trench 1, four pit features, five agricultural furrows, and 20 posts were revealed.

*Feature 26-* This shallow pit feature was uncovered in the eastern portion of Trench 3. The feature measured one meter by 25 cm and extended to a maximum depth of 12 cm (Figure 4.14). The feature fill consisted of dark gray-brown sand and sparse shell.

*Feature 30-* This feature was located west of Feature 26 and consisted of a small oval shaped pit. Feature 30 measured 50 cm east to west and 20 cm north to south (Figure 4.13). The feature fill contained a moderate density of shell.

*Feature 41-* This historic feature was a medium sized pit that was 55 cm in diameter and 36 cm deep (Figure 4.13). There were 2 liters of oyster within the fill, as well as one whiteware fragment, four square nail fragments, and four unidentified metal fragments.

*Feature 43-* This was a medium sized pit that had a trace of shell and intruded into Feature 87 (an agricultural furrow). This feature was 46 cm by 35 cm (Figure 4.13), extending into the trench. The feature contained 12 artifacts (whiteware, creamware, slipware, glass, and iron) in addition to a trace of shell. The function of this feature is unclear.

*Feature 47-* This prehistoric feature was the only large shell pit encountered; its function was interpreted as for cooking, with later disposal of oyster shells. The pit measured 110 cm in diameter and 50 cm deep, with the shell concentrated at the top and almost no shell toward the bottom (Figure 4.13). This shell pit contained three potsherds (two St. Johns and one sand tempered) in addition to 20 liters of shell, and a small amount of bone.

*Feature 49-* This feature was located in the central portion of the trench impacting Feature 86, an agricultural furrow. Feature 49 was a circular pit that measured 42 cm in diameter and extended to 12 cm below surface (Figure 4.13). Trace amounts of shell were recovered.

#### *Post Features-*

Twenty posts were encountered during the investigation of Trench 3; a list giving their shape and depth point of initiation is presented in Table 4.4. Many of the posts appear to be associated with the agricultural furrows, and are either along side or within them. However, in the western portion of the trench was a circular pattern of posts that may represent a small structure.



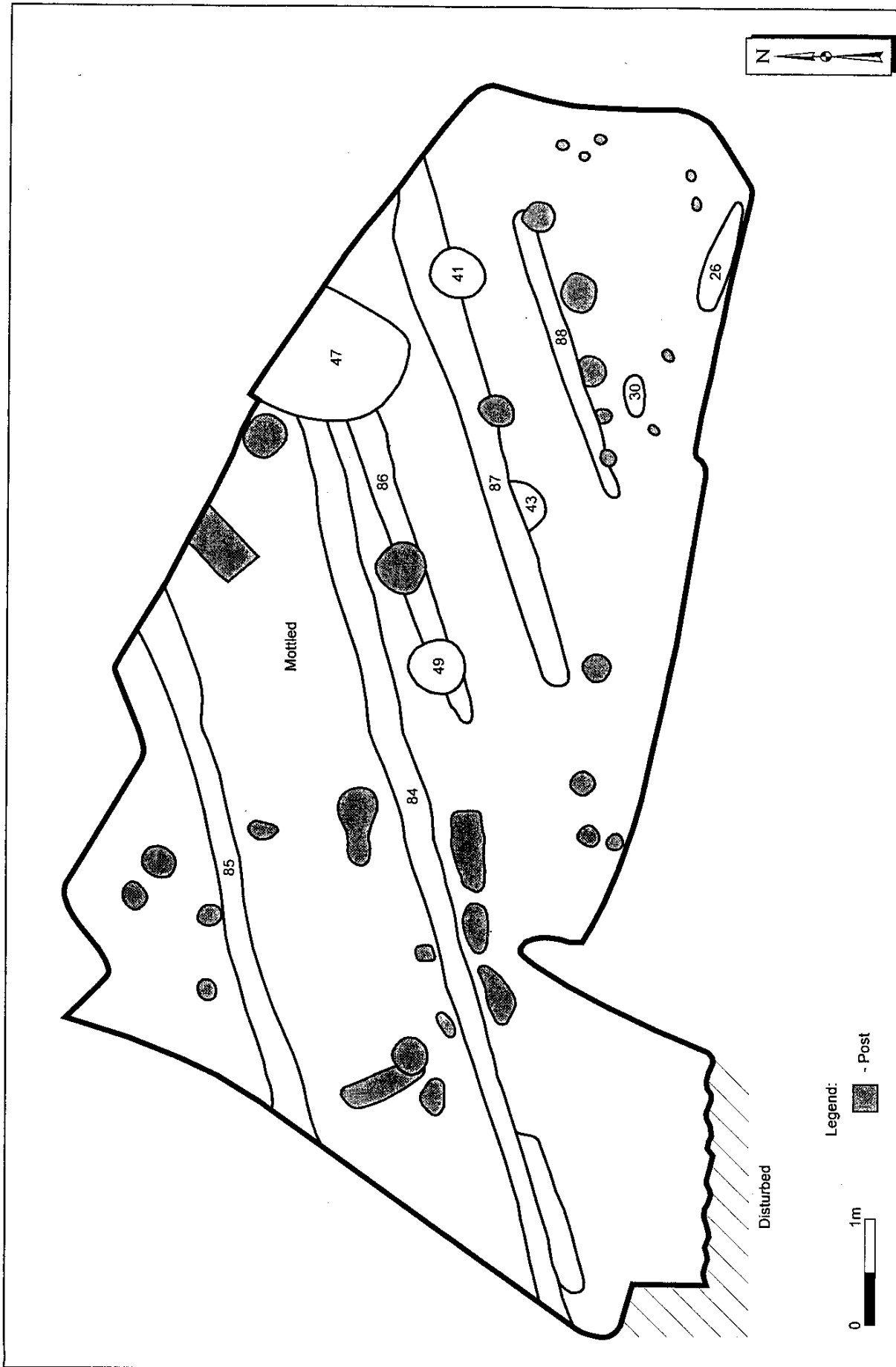


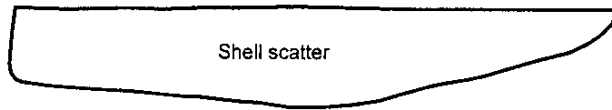
Figure: 4.13
Project: EJ00313.03
Date: April 2004

Plan View of Trench #3, 8SJ62 NR  
**Fish Island**  
 St. Johns County, Florida

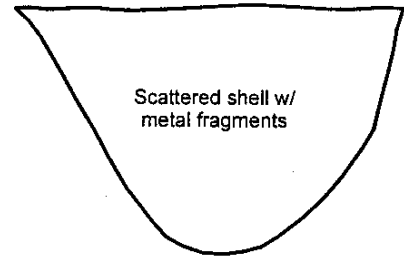


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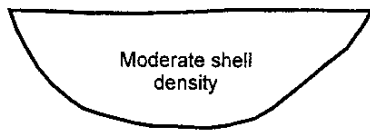
**F.26**



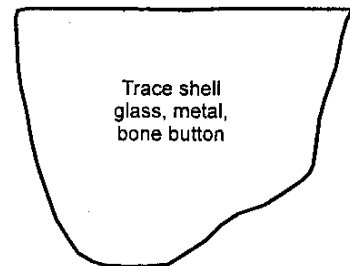
**F.41**



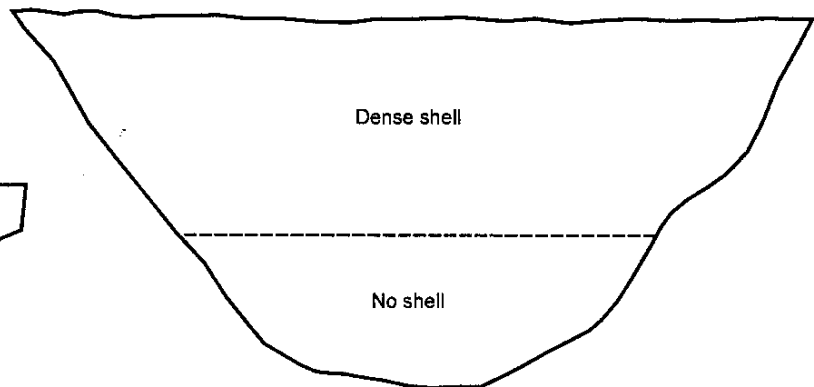
**F.30**



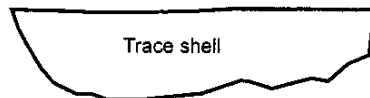
**F.43**



**F.47**



**F.49**



0 10cm



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Profiles of Features from  
Trench #3, 8SJ62 NR  
**Fish Island**  
St. Johns County, Florida

Figure: 4.14

Project: EJ00313.03

Date: April 2004

**Table 4.4. Posts Recovered from Trench 3**

Post Feature	Shape	Depth (cm)	Post Mold
27	Flat bottom	20	Yes
28	Round	6	No
29	u-shaped	8	No
31	Flat bottom	6	No
32	Round	8	No
33	v-shaped	8	No
34	Round	7	No
35	Flat bottom	16	No
36	Flat bottom	16	Yes
37	Flat bottom	15	Yes
38	v-shaped	20	No
39	u-shaped	20	No
40	Round	12	No
42	v-shaped	22	Yes
44	v-shaped	19	No
45	Round	18	No
46	Round	8	Yes
48	Flat bottom round	29	Yes
50	u-shape	26	Yes
51	Flat bottom	29	No
52	Flat bottom	18	Yes
53	U-shaped	36	Yes
54	Flat bottom	18	No
55	Flat bottom	28	No
56	Flat bottom	19	No
57	Flat bottom	10	No
58	Flat bottom	38	No
59	Flat bottom	8	No
60	Flat bottom	16	No
61	Flat bottom	14	No
62	v-shaped round	10	No
63	v-shaped	28	No
64	Flat bottom	32	Yes
65	Flat bottom	28	Yes



## Historic Artifacts

Excavations resulted in the recovery of 1192 artifacts associated with the historic period occupation of 8SJ62NR. Of these, 885 were ascribed to functional categories (Table 4.5) that included Service, Hardware, Storage, Personal Items, and Weaponry. There were also 307 artifacts that could not be confidently interpreted by function; these were primarily unidentified iron fragments, as well as a few pieces of nondescript glass.

Service related artifacts were most common, numbering 545 and accounting for over 61% of the total (Table 4.5). These were primarily pearlwares, in addition to whiteware, creamware, and small numbers of other refined earthenwares, as discussed in more detail below. Nail and spike fragments represented the hardware category, which accounted for 24.2% of the artifacts identified by function. Two of these are depicted in Figure 4.15.

Artifacts with a Storage function (n=105) constituted 11.9% of the artifacts. These were primarily glass, in addition to Olive Jar, Stoneware, one Delft pharmaceutical jar, and small amounts of other wares (Figure 4.16). Of the glass, most was olive green wine bottle glass (n=53), in addition to a smaller number of clear glass shards (n=12) suggesting a storage function.

Personal artifacts were few (n=19) and accounted for 2.1% of the material recovered. These included fragments of two small bone handles, kaolin pipestem fragments, buttons, and one silver three-cent piece dated 1852 that had a hole drilled in it. Figure 4.17 shows several artifacts from this category, including the two gunflints that represent Weaponry (0.2% of the total).

**Table 4.5: Functional Artifact Categories, 8SJ62NR**

Functional Category	Count	%
Service	545	61.6
Hardware/Furnishings	214	24.2
Storage	105	11.9
Personal	19	2.1
Weaponry	2	0.2
Miscellaneous/unspecified function)	(307)	--
Total	885	100.00

Ceramics made up the largest portion of the material assemblage from 8SJ62NR. As seen in Table 4.6, Pearlware was the most common, numbering 296 and accounting for 52.6% of the ceramics recovered. Plain sherds were most common, followed by transfer printed, Annularware, hand painted, shell edged, Wormy Fingerpainted, and Mocha. Whiteware made up 18.9% of the ceramics and included some decorations in addition to the more common plain sherds. Several sherds of these two types, which together accounted for over 71% of the historic ceramics, are shown in Figures 4.18 and 4.19. It is expected that much of the Whiteware postdates the Fish occupation, and is instead associated with the documented presence of squatters on the property.



**Figure 4.15. Hardware/Furnishings from 8SJ62NR**



**Figure 4.16. Storage Artifacts from 8SJ62NR**





Figure 4.17. Personal and Weaponry Artifacts at 8SJ62NR



Figure 4.18. Pearlware from 8SJ62NR





**Figure 4.19. Pearlware and Transfer Printed Whiteware from 8SJ62NR**

Creamware was the last of the major contributors to the ceramic assemblage from the site ( $n=77$ , or 13.6%). Moderate amounts of slipware, Reyware, stoneware, porcelain, and unglazed coarse earthenware were present (all contributing from 4 to 1 percent) followed by minor amounts of several types, seen in table 4.6, that each constituted less than 1% of the ceramics recovered. A sample of these sherds is seen in Figure 4.20.

**Table 4.6. Historic pottery from 8SJ62NR**

<b>Artifact Description</b>	<b>Count</b>	<b>%</b>
pearlware	296	52.4
plain (120)		
transfer print (64)		
Annularware (57)		
hand painted (28)		
shell-edged (23)		
Wormy finger painted (3)		
Mocha (1)		
whiteware	107	18.9
plain (85)		
transfer print (18)		
painted (4)		
creamware	77	13.6
Slipware	25	4.5
Keyware	11	2.0
stoneware	9	1.6
porcelain	8	1.4
unglazed earthenware	7	1.2
olive jar	5	0.9
yellow ware	5	0.9
earthenware glazed	3	0.5
El Morro	3	0.5
Marineware	3	0.5
spatterware	2	0.3
Jackfield	2	0.3
Tin enameled, UID	1	0.2
Spongeware	1	0.2
<b>Total</b>	<b>565</b>	<b>99.9</b>



**Figure 4.20. Miscellaneous Artifacts from 8SJ62NR**

#### Prehistoric Artifacts

Throughout 8SJ62NR, small concentrations of prehistoric remains were encountered. In the area subjected to data recovery/mitigation, a low density scatter of Late Woodland to Mississippian period artifacts were recovered in the upper layers and in a few shell pit features underlying. In addition to these, five Orange fiber tempered sherds were recovered in the lower strata and concentrated in the well area. The prehistoric artifacts are presented in Table 4.7, and examples of Orange Incised and Swift Creek sherds are seen in Figure 4.21.



**Table 4.7. Prehistoric Artifacts Recovered from 8SJ62NR**

Artifact Description	Count	Weight
St. Johns check stamped	3	14.8
St. Johns plain	31	299.8
St. Johns indeterminate	8	24.8
Swift Creek complicated stamped	8	121.7
sand tempered plain	62	641.9
sand tempered punctate	1	2.9
Orange plain	1	2.4
Orange incised	2	13.1
Orange zoned	2	32.4
NDF, chert patinated	1	0
bone, modified UID	3	4.6
whelk receptacle	1	118.5
<b>Total</b>	<b>124</b>	<b>1276.9</b>



**Figure 4.21. Orange (bottom) and Swift Creek (top) Pottery from 8SJ62NR**

The Mississippian period pottery included St. Johns plain, check stamped, and indeterminate sherds, which consisted of 35.3% of the prehistoric pottery recovered. Late Woodland artifacts consisted of Swift Creek complicated stamped pottery sherds that were recovered in association with the St. Johns sherds and the sand tempered sherds. Five Orange fiber tempered sherds were recovered underlying the later prehistoric and historic remains and consisted of plain, incised, and zoned varieties. In addition to sherds, five other prehistoric artifacts were recovered that included one chert nondecortication flake, one whelk receptacle fragment, and three modified bone fragments.

### **Summary of Well and Midden Area**

The artifacts recovered reflect domestic activities associated with both the Fish Plantation and later occupation. Jesse Fish died in 1790, and his son, Jesse Fish, Jr., died in 1812. The presence of the unlined well and the artifact concentration suggest habitation in this part of the site during the Fish years, although structural remains were limited to fragments of tabby and brick, with no intact structural elements in evidence. Some postholes were encountered, but these did not suggest structures.

In addition to these components, mechanical stripping north of the plantation residence revealed a number of agricultural furrows that appear to postdate the Fish Plantation occupation. These are similar to furrows dating from the Second Spanish Period that we have seen at sites north of St. Augustine (Smith et al. 2004). Some of the later artifacts, primarily whiteware, indicate occupation following the death of the younger Fish in 1812. The Fish heirs held the land until at least 1837, although ownership after that date becomes muddled. The association of the recovered 1852 three penny coin that was deposited will never be known.

### **Excavations at the Former Blockhouse Location**

This location was subjected to testing and excavation to facilitate the closer placement of a proposed road. Historic maps (ca. 1780, 1860, and 1925) depict a small building along the eastern edge of Fish Island that provided access to the plantation from Anastasia Island. On the various maps, this structure has been labeled as a sentry box or guardhouse, and it presumably functioned as a means of regulating traffic on and off Fish Island. This feature has been largely destroyed by looters/vandals.

Some brush removal was necessary to reveal the remains of the blockhouse, which consist of small segments of the walls (Figure 4.22). According to St. Augustine City Archaeologist Carl Halbirt (personal communication September 2003), all four walls and the floor of the structure were present 10 years ago. A depression is now present in the interior that appears to have been created during looting, which resulted in the destruction of the building.





**Figure 4.22. Photograph of the Blockhouse Remnants (Viewing East), 8SJ62NR**

The second task included the excavation of five shovel tests at the blockhouse location; one near the large wall fragment, and four dug at 10-meter intervals in the four cardinal directions. The latter revealed a 20 cm thick disturbed lens that contained metal, brick, shell fragments, and modern debris followed by sterile wet sand. The test dug closest to the structure revealed three strata: Stratum I (0-15 cmbs) was gray fine sand; Stratum II (15-50 cm below surface) was mottled dark gray to gray-brown that contained nails, prehistoric pottery, glass, and shell fragments; Stratum III (50-77 cmbs) was brown moist sand that ended at the water table.

One excavation unit (Unit 9) measuring 1 by 2 meters was dug that extended south from the southern edge of the fallen wall segment. During the excavation, four distinct strata were encountered. Stratum I represents the upper layer that consisted of gray sand and roots to approximately 20 cm below surface. Stratum II was dark gray sand that extended from 19 to 40 cm below surface. Stratum III was gray-brown sand that extended from 35 to 68 cm below surface. Stratum IV was encountered in the northeast corner where it was taken down further to excavate Feature I. This stratum consisted of light gray-brown sand that extended past the depth of unit termination (98 cm below surface).

The excavation at the Blockhouse did not reveal a builders trench; however, one pit feature and three postholes were encountered (Figure 4.23). Feature 1 was a pit discovered in the northwest corner of Unit 9 at 40 cm below surface. This pit measured 45 cm along the northern wall and extended into the unit 24 cm. Feature 1 was bowl shaped with steep sides ending in a narrow point at 72 cm below surface. Feature fill consisted of dark grayish-brown sand and trace shell. Artifacts recovered from feature fill included unidentified iron, nails, a coin, whiteware, and prehistoric sherds.



The three postholes in the south-central portion of the unit were nearly identical in size and shape. These measured approximately 20 cm in diameter and extended from 40 to 50 cm below surface. All three had a rounded base, except for Post 2 that consisted of a flat bottom. The posts formed a triangular pattern in plan view (Figure 4.23).

Construction plans call for a protective cap of sand to be placed over the remains of the former blockhouse. It will remain within an outparcel intended as a park for community occupants.

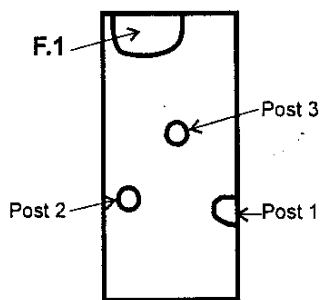
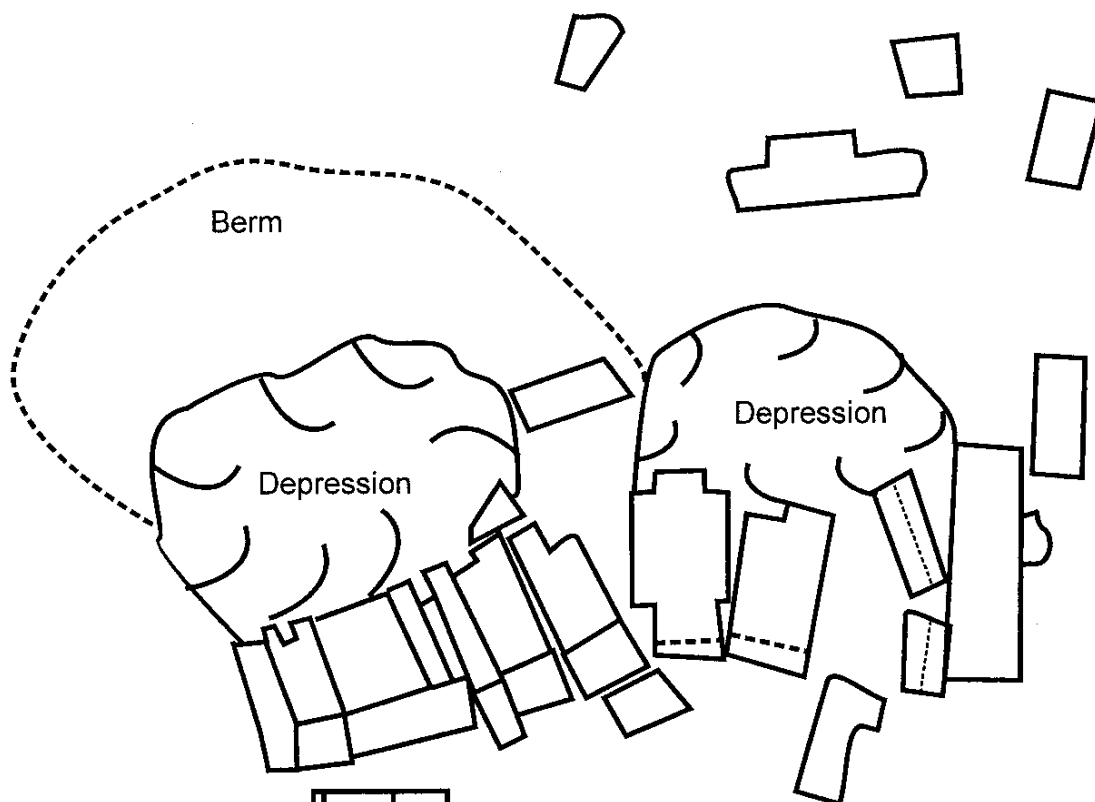
### **Documentation of the Wharf**

Evidence of the plantation wharf is present along the marsh on the west side of the study area on the north side of what appears to have been a man-made boat basin (White and Halbirt 2001:40). As seen in Figure 4.24, the wharf feature consists of two parallel walls of coquina stone that are approximately 30 feet long and spaced 3 meters apart (Figure 4.25). Four shovel tests were dug at 10 meter intervals in the surrounding area; two within the man-made projection formed by the coquina walls and two to the north on permanent land (one northeast and one northwest of the wharf). A single diminutive earthenware sherd came from the northeastern test.

To document the construction methods and depth of the coquina blocks that served as the eastern and western faces of the wharf projection a 50 by 50 cm excavation unit was dug along the exterior of the eastern wall. As seen in Figure 4.26 (and Figure 4.25), the east wall terminated below the water level at the time of excavation, and the construction must have been built at low tide. The walls were constructed of four mortared layers of cut coquina blocks, the uppermost course consisting of thin blocks that served as a cap to those below. Workmanship was of high quality; all angles were sharp and the walls were not crudely constructed as a shoreline bulkhead might be expected to appear. The area between the two walls was presumably leveled to serve as a ramp, and the soil presently outside the walls is silt accumulated after the wharf fell into disuse. Existing plans call for the preservation of this feature, and its incorporation into the boundary of one of the planned residential lots. It could easily be enhanced by some careful excavation and cleaning, or covered with fill for better preservation.

### **Documentation of the Western Channel**

Along the western marsh is a channel that parallels the shoreline and connects with the wharf/boat basin to the north. This is a man-made feature that appears to have been a component of Jesse Fish's commercial enterprises that served in the transport of goods and people to and from the plantation house (White and Halbirt 2001:40). A possible channel is illustrated on the Dorr Map of 1860, while the Davis map of 1925 indicates two parallel dotted lines in the general area.



Legend:



Coquina blocks

0 50cm



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Blockhouse Remains at 8SJ62NR  
**Fish Island**  
St. Johns County, Florida

Figure:	4.23
Project:	EJ00313.03
Date:	April 2004



**Figure 4.24. View to Northwest Showing East Wall of Wharf, 8SJ62NR**

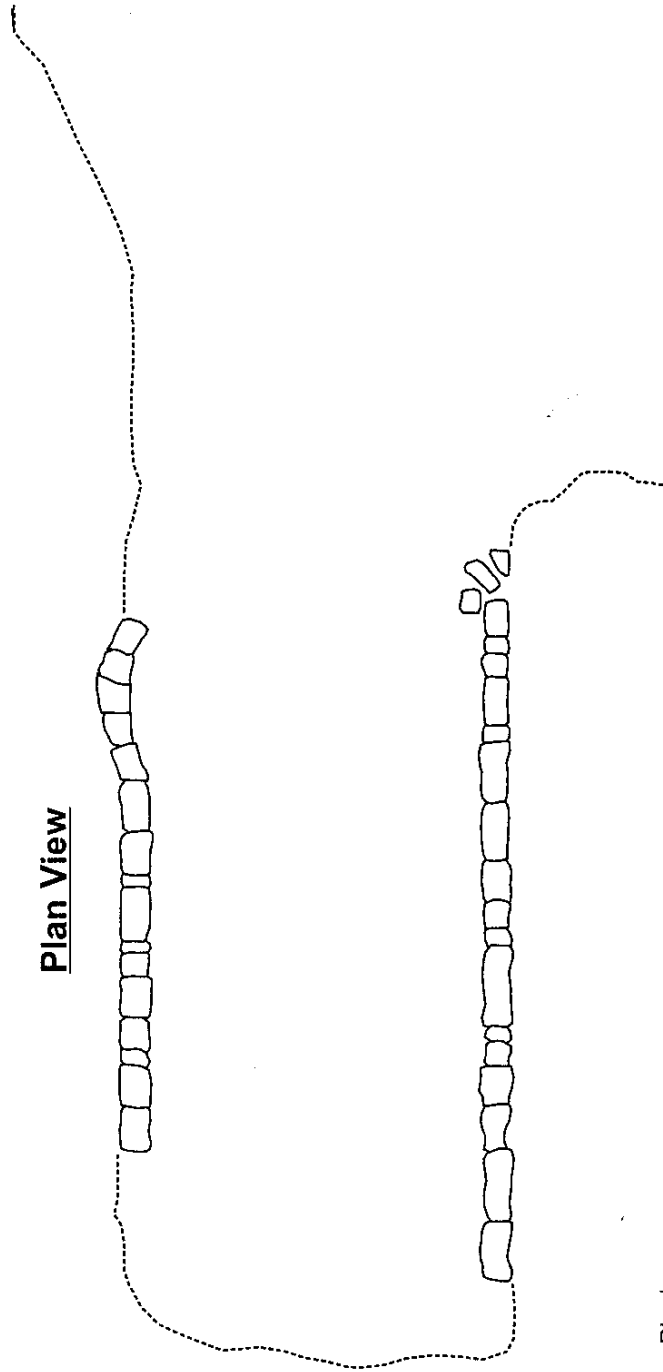




- Coquina Block

0 1m

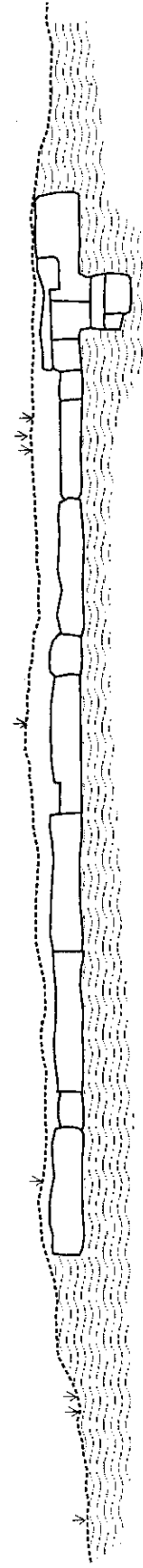
### Plan View



- Coquina Block

0 50cm

### West Profile of East Wall



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Plan View and Profile of the Wharf, 85J62NR

## **Fish Island**

St. Augustine, Florida

Figure: 4.25

Project: EJ03313.03

Date: May 2004



**Figure 26. Wharf Excavation of East Wall, 8SJ62NR**

As part of this investigation an elevation drawing of a segment of the westernmost channel was prepared (Figure 4.27). Today, the channel cut is a maximum of 6 meters across, with the bed of the channel slightly over one meter below the top of the bank. No doubt there have been changes in the configuration of the channel due to silting and erosion through the years. A photograph of the channel is included at the bottom of Figure 4.27.

### **Coquina Lined Well**

This looted feature will remain preserved in place within the preservation area. Because previous work indicated that intact portions of 8SJ62 end to the east of this location (White and Halbirt 2000), supplemental shovel tests were dug at 10-meter intervals around the feature to provide additional support for that observation and to mitigate any possible impacts from the planned north-south road. Testing yielded only a sparse mixture of historic and historic material in the plow zone, but one test close to the well did determine that the construction pit for the well is still intact below the ground surface.

### **Testing of the Offshore Island**

Approximately 40-meters west of Fish Island is an offshore landform where a gazebo has been proposed as part of a boardwalk system that would provide access to a proposed marina along the Matanzas River. Because of the potential impacts to this area by support posts, testing was conducted to determine if cultural resources were present.

Three shovel tests were dug along this narrow landform, which is oriented north to south. All of the tests revealed very dark gray to black poorly drained sand, and water was encountered by 40 cm below surface. No artifacts were recovered from the tests or present on the surface.



0 1m



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Profile or the South View and Photograph of the  
Channel 8SJ62NR  
**Fish Island**  
St. Augustine, Florida

Figure: 4.27

Project: EJ00313.03

Date: May 2004

## V. CONCLUSIONS AND RECOMMENDATIONS

From July through December 2003, Environmental Services Inc. (ESI) of Jacksonville, Florida conducted data recovery and mitigation in the northern portion of Fish Island in St. Johns County, Florida. The property contains remains associated with the Jesse Fish Plantation (8SJ62NR), a National Register listed site documented during previous work by the City of St. Augustine and by ESI. The work described herein was designed to mitigate the well and midden area in the northern portion of the site and to facilitate the placement of a road segment along the northern and eastern edges of the preservation area, where the remains of the plantation residence remain intact.

The Jesse Fish Plantation site includes the plantation house, the remains of a "blockhouse," a coquina block well, and two tombs, in addition to a wharf and channel system (White and Halbirt 2001). The wharf is in the northwestern portion of the island south of the SR 312 Bridge, while the channels are located along the western and eastern edges of the Island. These features will not be impacted by the proposed project; neither will the coquina block well, which will be preserved in place, nor the guardhouse ruins, which will be capped by fill dirt and preserved in place. Archaeological data were recovered from the wharf, the channels, and the guardhouse during the present study and are presented in this report. A small, tidally influenced offshore island was also subjected to subsurface testing and found to contain no cultural deposits.

The present data recovery followed an earlier survey by ESI (Smith et al. 2003a) that encountered a well and portions of an intact occupational midden dating to the late 18<sup>th</sup> and 19<sup>th</sup> centuries. That survey report recommended mitigation of the well and midden area, in addition to documentation of a wharf and channel associated with the plantation. Concurrence with these recommendations was received in a letter from SHPO dated August 13, 2003 (DHR Project No. 2003-6197). This report has documented the mitigation of the northern portion of 8SJ62NR and fulfills the specifications of a Scope of Work previously submitted to SHPO in an addendum to the original survey report (Smith et al. 2003b).

Figure 5.1 shows the development plan for the northern portion of the 8SJ62NR Fish Island property, with specific features marked as follows:

A) Midden and Well Mitigation Area	(mitigated)
B) Wharf Documentation	(preserved in place)
C) Channel Documentation	(preserved in place)
D) Island Shovel Testing	(no cultural remains)
E) Former Blockhouse Ruins	(preserved in place)
F) Coquina Well	(preserved in place)

The shaded portion of Figure 5.1 shows the area for which the conditions for project clearance at Fish Island have been met. Location "A" is the well and midden area for which mitigation took place, as documented in this report. Locations B, C, and D include the wharf, channel, and offshore island, respectively, as documented in this report. Locations E and F are the Blockhouse Ruins and Coquina Block Well, respectively, which will remain preserved in place.





The cul-de-sac seen in Figure 5.1 east of E and F, and extending south is placed adjacent to an existing drainage. Testing as part of the present study, as well as the results from White and Halbirt (2001) indicate that there are no significant deposits in this slightly sloping location, which will be covered by additional fill dirt prior to road placement.

Presently, no specific plans exist for the portion of site 8SJ62NR that lies south of the outparcel/preservation area, although there have been discussions about possible mitigation work in that area in the future. Further coordination with DHR would be necessary to meet Section 106 requirements when those plans develop.

Based on the results of the present study it is recommended that the proposed development plans for the shaded area seen in Figure 5.1 be granted clearance with regard to impacts to significant portions of 8SJ62NR.

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H. S. Wyllie Papers. St. Augustine Historical Society Research Library.



**APPENDIX A**

**Survey Log Sheet**

## APPENDIX B

Updated Site Form for 8SJ62NR

## APPENDIX C

### Artifacts Recovered at 8SJ62NR



Unit/Feature	Depth Open	Artifact Description	Count	Weight
Unit 5	0 to 10	brick	2	2.20
Unit 5	0 to 10	ceramic, UFD glazed	1	1.60
Unit 5	0 to 10	curved glass, dk gr	2	3.90
Unit 5	0 to 10	diminutive sherd	2	4.30
Unit 5	0 to 10	gaudy dutch	1	2.90
Unit 5	0 to 10	iron, unidentified	9	63.30
Unit 5	0 to 10	pearlware	4	30.30
Unit 5	0 to 10	pearlware hand painted	1	2.20
Unit 5	0 to 10	pearlware shell-edged	1	6.00
Unit 5	0 to 10	pearlware transfer print	1	1.30
Unit 5	0 to 10	sand tempered plain	1	7.60
Unit 5	0 to 10	porcelain	1	2.10
Unit 5	0 to 10	square nail, iron	2	5.00
Unit 5	0 to 10	St. Johns plain	2	7.50
Unit 5	0 to 10	whiteware	6	19.70
Unit 5	0 to 10	whiteware transfer print	4	27.00
Unit 5	10 to 20	annular ware	9	22.00
Unit 5	10 to 20	brick	3	5.40
Unit 5	10 to 20	curved glass	1	1.80
Unit 5	10 to 20	curved glass, dk gr	5	45.60
Unit 5	10 to 20	iron, unidentified	11	111.00
Unit 5	10 to 20	ironstone transfer print	1	5.90
Unit 5	10 to 20	pearlware	10	36.00
Unit 5	10 to 20	pearlware shell-edged	6	39.60
Unit 5	10 to 20	pearlware transfer print	1	4.30
Unit 5	10 to 20	sand tempered plain	1	6.90
Unit 5	10 to 20	square nail, iron	3	8.40
Unit 5	10 to 20	St. Johns indeterminate	1	2.70
Unit 5	10 to 20	St. Johns plain	1	17.60
Unit 5	10 to 20	whiteware	4	11.20
Unit 5	10 to 20	whiteware transfer print	3	5.70
Unit 5	20 to 30	annular ware	3	4.50
Unit 5	20 to 30	brick	1	2.30
Unit 5	20 to 30	curved glass, clear	1	3.20
Unit 5	20 to 30	curved glass, dk gr	4	25.90
Unit 5	20 to 30	diminutive sherd	1	1.20
Unit 5	20 to 30	gaudy dutch	1	3.00
Unit 5	20 to 30	iron, unidentified	11	39.20
Unit 5	20 to 30	olive jar	1	11.00
Unit 5	20 to 30	pearlware	7	18.10
Unit 5	20 to 30	pearlware shell-edged	1	3.30
Unit 5	20 to 30	pearlware transfer print	2	21.60
Unit 5	20 to 30	porcelain	1	0.20
Unit 5	20 to 30	square nail, iron	5	22.90
Unit 5	20 to 30	whiteware	3	12.40

Unit/Feature	Depth Open	Artifact Description	Count	Weight
Unit 5	30 to 40	annular ware	4	14.10
Unit 5	30 to 40	ceramic, UID slipped	1	3.90
Unit 5	30 to 40	ceramic, UID transfer print	1	4.30
Unit 5	30 to 40	curved glass, dk gr	3	14.70
Unit 5	30 to 40	diminutive sherd	4	6.90
Unit 5	30 to 40	earthenware	1	3.10
Unit 5	30 to 40	gaudy dutch	1	3.70
Unit 5	30 to 40	iron, unidentified	2	2.10
Unit 5	30 to 40	Orange zoned	1	5.10
Unit 5	30 to 40	pearlware	6	40.40
Unit 5	30 to 40	pearlware transfer print	1	2.10
Unit 5	30 to 40	sand tempered plain	12	158.30
Unit 5	30 to 40	square nail, iron	3	18.80
Unit 5	30 to 40	St. Johns plain	4	57.20
Unit 5	30 to 40	Swift Creek complicated stamped	3	60.70
Unit 5	30 to 40	whiteware	4	10.40
Unit 5	40 to 50	brick	5	7.20
Unit 5	40 to 50	creamware	1	5.00
Unit 5	40 to 50	curved glass, dk gr	2	1.30
Unit 5	40 to 50	diminutive sherd	5	5.50
Unit 5	40 to 50	iron, unidentified	4	3.70
Unit 5	40 to 50	Orange incised	1	2.70
Unit 5	40 to 50	pearlware	2	27.60
Unit 5	40 to 50	pearlware transfer print	2	2.70
Unit 5	40 to 50	sand tempered plain	6	50.50
Unit 5	40 to 50	square nail, iron	5	23.20
Unit 5	40 to 50	St. Johns plain	3	29.20
Unit 5	40 to 50	stoneware glazed	1	6.60
Unit 5	40 to 50	Swift Creek complicated stamped	3	37.20
Unit 5	50 to 60	Orange zoned	1	27.30
Unit 5	50 to 60	sand tempered plain	2	10.60
Unit 5	50 to 60	square nail, iron	1	14.10
Unit 5	50 to 60	Swift Creek complicated stamped	1	11.90
Unit 5	60 to 70	NDF, chert patinated	1	0.00
Unit 5	80 to 90	iron, unidentified	2	5.40
Unit 6	0 to 10	annular ware	11	43.30
Unit 6	0 to 10	bottle glass, dk gr	2	39.60
Unit 6	0 to 10	creamware	2	4.10
Unit 6	0 to 10	curved glass, clear	1	0.20
Unit 6	0 to 10	curved glass, dk gr	10	42.90
Unit 6	0 to 10	diminutive sherd	2	2.40
Unit 6	0 to 10	earthenware glazed	1	0.90
Unit 6	0 to 10	gaudy dutch	2	0.90
Unit 6	0 to 10	iron, unidentified	14	54.40
Unit 6	0 to 10	pearlware	14	49.20
Unit 6	0 to 10	pearlware hand painted	1	1.10
Unit 6	0 to 10	pearlware shell-edged	3	7.90
Unit 6	0 to 10	pearlware transfer print	11	16.10

Unit/Feature	Depth Open	Artifact Description	Count	Weight
Unit 6	0 to 10	Reyware	2	5.30
Unit 6	0 to 10	Reyware glazed	1	3.90
Unit 6	0 to 10	porcelain	1	0.30
Unit 6	0 to 10	Spongeware	1	0.60
Unit 6	0 to 10	square cut nail, iron	1	7.20
Unit 6	0 to 10	square nail, iron	1	2.60
Unit 6	0 to 10	St. Johns indeterminate	1	1.20
Unit 6	0 to 10	stoneware glazed	1	15.30
Unit 6	0 to 10	whiteware	13	31.00
Unit 6	0 to 10	whiteware hand painted	2	2.20
Unit 6	0 to 10	whiteware shell-edged	1	6.00
Unit 6	0 to 10	whiteware transfer print	4	9.10
Unit 6	10 to 20	American slipware	1	6.30
Unit 6	10 to 20	American slipware unglazed	1	1.20
Unit 6	10 to 20	annular ware	5	6.10
Unit 6	10 to 20	annular ware glazed	5	8.80
Unit 6	10 to 20	brick	8	17.70
Unit 6	10 to 20	creamware	12	19.80
Unit 6	10 to 20	curved glass, clear	4	6.80
Unit 6	10 to 20	curved glass, dk gr	9	31.90
Unit 6	10 to 20	diminutive sherd	2	3.10
Unit 6	10 to 20	earthenware glazed	1	2.20
Unit 6	10 to 20	earthenware unglazed	1	41.30
Unit 6	10 to 20	El Morro	1	4.80
Unit 6	10 to 20	flat glass, clear	1	1.70
Unit 6	10 to 20	gaudy dutch	1	2.10
Unit 6	10 to 20	iron, unidentified	45	356.30
Unit 6	10 to 20	kaolin pipe	2	7.40
Unit 6	10 to 20	Marineware unglazed	2	3.60
Unit 6	10 to 20	pearlware	20	96.50
Unit 6	10 to 20	pearlware hand painted	3	3.50
Unit 6	10 to 20	pearlware shell-edged	1	0.60
Unit 6	10 to 20	pearlware transfer print	7	6.60
Unit 6	10 to 20	Reyware glazed	1	1.90
Unit 6	10 to 20	sand tempered plain	1	2.80
Unit 6	10 to 20	spatterware	1	0.60
Unit 6	10 to 20	square nail, iron	35	173.30
Unit 6	10 to 20	St. Johns plain	1	6.70
Unit 6	10 to 20	Staffordshire slipware glazed	1	34.50
Unit 6	10 to 20	stoneware unglazed	2	42.20
Unit 6	10 to 20	whiteware	15	32.30
Unit 6	10 to 20	whiteware transfer print	4	7.80
Unit 6	20 to 30	American slipware unglazed	3	16.80
Unit 6	20 to 30	annular ware	1	3.30
Unit 6	20 to 30	bone modified UID	1	1.90
Unit 6	20 to 30	brick	1	6.00
Unit 6	20 to 30	button, bone	1	0.20
Unit 6	20 to 30	button, brass	1	4.70

Unit/Feature	Depth Open	Artifact Description	Count	Weight
Unit 6	20 to 30	button, copper	1	3.80
Unit 6	20 to 30	ceramic, UID	1	0.10
Unit 6	20 to 30	creamware	5	9.60
Unit 6	20 to 30	diminutive sherd	2	1.90
Unit 6	20 to 30	earthenware	1	8.10
Unit 6	20 to 30	El Morro unglazed	1	2.40
Unit 6	20 to 30	gaudy dutch	2	2.30
Unit 6	20 to 30	gunflint	1	4.20
Unit 6	20 to 30	iron, unidentified	18	107.70
Unit 6	20 to 30	kaolin pipe	1	3.90
Unit 6	20 to 30	pearlware	6	33.40
Unit 6	20 to 30	pearlware hand painted	1	0.30
Unit 6	20 to 30	pearlware shell-edged	1	1.50
Unit 6	20 to 30	pearlware transfer print	2	1.10
Unit 6	20 to 30	Reyware	1	0.40
Unit 6	20 to 30	sand tempered	1	6.00
Unit 6	20 to 30	sand tempered plain	2	34.40
Unit 6	20 to 30	slipware	1	11.90
Unit 6	20 to 30	square nail, iron	10	35.30
Unit 6	20 to 30	St. Johns plain	1	1.90
Unit 6	20 to 30	stoneware glazed	1	53.30
Unit 6	20 to 30	strap, iron	1	133.50
Unit 6	20 to 30	tabby	1	5.70
Unit 6	20 to 30	tube, iron	1	12.00
Unit 6	20 to 30	whiteware	1	3.00
Unit 6	30 to 40	annular ware	1	1.40
Unit 6	30 to 40	diminutive sherd	6	8.30
Unit 6	30 to 40	iron, unidentified	6	73.10
Unit 6	30 to 40	pearlware transfer print	1	7.80
Unit 6	30 to 40	sand tempered plain	1	3.30
Unit 6	30 to 40	St. Johns plain	4	13.10
Unit 6	40 to 50	annular ware	1	1.30
Unit 6	40 to 50	creamware	3	6.70
Unit 6	40 to 50	diminutive sherd	9	13.70
Unit 6	40 to 50	earthenware glazed	1	0.80
Unit 6	40 to 50	gaudy dutch	2	1.60
Unit 6	40 to 50	iron, unidentified	3	4.50
Unit 6	40 to 50	iron, unidentified	3	2.30
Unit 6	40 to 50	kaolin pipe	1	9.20
Unit 6	40 to 50	slipware glazed	1	1.30
Unit 6	40 to 50	slipware unglazed	1	3.60
Unit 6	40 to 50	square nail, iron	2	10.00
Unit 6	40 to 50	St. Johns indeterminate	2	10.70
Unit 6	40 to 50	tabby	1	1.50
Unit 6	40 to 50	whiteware	2	4.00
Unit 6	50 to 60	Orange	1	2.40
Unit 7	0 to 10	American slipware unglazed	1	9.20
Unit 7	0 to 10	bone modified UID	1	2.10



Unit/Feature	Depth Open	Artifact Description	Count	Weight
Unit 7	0 to 10	bottle glass, dk gr	1	2.20
Unit 7	0 to 10	creamware	4	2.80
Unit 7	0 to 10	creamware	2	2.20
Unit 7	0 to 10	curved glass, dk gr	3	6.50
Unit 7	0 to 10	diminutive sherd	2	4.60
Unit 7	0 to 10	earthenware	1	1.90
Unit 7	0 to 10	iron, unidentified	4	11.80
Unit 7	0 to 10	pearlware	3	9.10
Unit 7	0 to 10	pearlware shell-edged	2	7.30
Unit 7	0 to 10	pearlware transfer print	4	3.40
Unit 7	0 to 10	sand tempered plain	1	5.30
Unit 7	0 to 10	slipware	1	4.90
Unit 7	0 to 10	square nail, iron	5	20.40
Unit 7	0 to 10	St. Johns indeterminate	1	3.90
Unit 7	0 to 10	St. Johns plain	1	5.60
Unit 7	0 to 10	stoneware unglazed	1	4.90
Unit 7	0 to 10	whiteware	3	8.50
Unit 7	0 to 10	whiteware transfer print	1	1.20
Unit 7	10 to 20	American slipware	2	4.50
Unit 7	10 to 20	annular ware	3	6.30
Unit 7	10 to 20	brick	2	3.90
Unit 7	10 to 20	creamware	8	35.10
Unit 7	10 to 20	curved glass, clear	1	4.40
Unit 7	10 to 20	curved glass, dk gr	1	3.20
Unit 7	10 to 20	diminutive sherd	2	2.70
Unit 7	10 to 20	gunflint	1	3.20
Unit 7	10 to 20	iron, unidentified	26	93.10
Unit 7	10 to 20	kaolin pipe	2	2.50
Unit 7	10 to 20	olive jar	1	14.30
Unit 7	10 to 20	olive jar unglazed	1	99.70
Unit 7	10 to 20	pearlware	6	11.50
Unit 7	10 to 20	pearlware shell-edged	4	38.80
Unit 7	10 to 20	pearlware transfer print	8	12.40
Unit 7	10 to 20	sand tempered plain	1	2.90
Unit 7	10 to 20	slate	2	3.30
Unit 7	10 to 20	square nail, iron	19	67.50
Unit 7	10 to 20	St. Johns plain	1	1.60
Unit 7	10 to 20	stoneware slipped	1	9.40
Unit 7	10 to 20	whiteware	8	16.20
Unit 7	10 to 20	whiteware transfer print	1	16.90
Unit 7	20 to 30	American slipware	4	8.60
Unit 7	20 to 30	American slipware eroded	2	28.30
Unit 7	20 to 30	annular ware	2	4.80
Unit 7	20 to 30	annular ware hand painted	1	0.90
Unit 7	20 to 30	brick	5	6.30
Unit 7	20 to 30	creamware	13	40.50
Unit 7	20 to 30	curved glass, dk gr	4	19.10
Unit 7	20 to 30	diminutive sherd	4	5.60

Unit/Feature	Depth Open	Artifact Description	Count	Weight
Unit 7	20 to 30	earthenware	1	13.90
Unit 7	20 to 30	gaudy dutch hand painted	1	1.90
Unit 7	20 to 30	iron, unidentified	25	80.70
Unit 7	20 to 30	Jackfield	1	13.00
Unit 7	20 to 30	kaolin pipe	2	4.90
Unit 7	20 to 30	olive jar	1	11.30
Unit 7	20 to 30	pearlware	10	36.70
Unit 7	20 to 30	pearlware hand painted	5	6.40
Unit 7	20 to 30	pearlware transfer print	3	5.10
Unit 7	20 to 30	Reyware	3	2.00
Unit 7	20 to 30	sand tempered	1	7.70
Unit 7	20 to 30	sand tempered plain	1	3.80
Unit 7	20 to 30	porcelain	2	2.80
Unit 7	20 to 30	porcelain	1	1.60
Unit 7	20 to 30	spatterware	1	1.60
Unit 7	20 to 30	spike, brass	1	36.10
Unit 7	20 to 30	square nail, iron	31	113.70
Unit 7	20 to 30	stoneware glazed	1	8.40
Unit 7	20 to 30	whiteware	5	9.20
Unit 7	20 to 30	yellow ware	2	4.40
Unit 7	30 to 40	American slipware	2	11.90
Unit 7	30 to 40	American slipware eroded	1	3.30
Unit 7	30 to 40	annular ware	3	2.90
Unit 7	30 to 40	annular ware wormy finger painted	1	2.40
Unit 7	30 to 40	creamware	6	27.70
Unit 7	30 to 40	diminutive sherd	3	4.30
Unit 7	30 to 40	earthenware	1	3.90
Unit 7	30 to 40	gaudy dutch	1	0.70
Unit 7	30 to 40	hone, sandstone	1	17.80
Unit 7	30 to 40	iron, unidentified	19	19.30
Unit 7	30 to 40	Jackfield	1	3.70
Unit 7	30 to 40	Marineware	1	6.90
Unit 7	30 to 40	olive jar	1	12.90
Unit 7	30 to 40	pearlware	8	37.60
Unit 7	30 to 40	pearlware hand painted	2	2.50
Unit 7	30 to 40	pearlware shell-edged	1	15.00
Unit 7	30 to 40	pearlware transfer print	8	12.60
Unit 7	30 to 40	refined earthenware	1	0.30
Unit 7	30 to 40	sand tempered plain	3	16.40
Unit 7	30 to 40	square nail, iron	14	46.50
Unit 7	30 to 40	St. Johns check stamped	1	2.20
Unit 7	30 to 40	St. Johns plain	2	10.80
Unit 7	30 to 40	whiteware	1	3.10
Unit 7	30 to 40	yellow ware	1	4.80
Unit 7	50 to 60	Orange incised	1	10.40
Unit 7	50 to 60	square nail, iron	1	11.40
Unit 8	0 to 10	annular ware wormy finger painted	1	4.70
Unit 8	0 to 10	brick	2	14.70

Unit/Feature	Depth Open	Artifact Description	Count	Weight
Unit 8	0 to 10	creamware	4	4.30
Unit 8	0 to 10	curved glass, dk gr	1	2.30
Unit 8	0 to 10	iron, unidentified	2	5.60
Unit 8	0 to 10	pearlware indeterminate	1	0.20
Unit 8	0 to 10	pearlware transfer print	3	9.80
Unit 8	0 to 10	Reyware	1	31.20
Unit 8	0 to 10	square nail, iron	6	11.30
Unit 8	0 to 10	St. Johns plain	1	9.80
Unit 8	0 to 10	whiteware	3	3.80
Unit 8	0 to 10	yellow ware painted	1	3.10
Unit 8	10 to 20	annular ware	2	1.80
Unit 8	10 to 20	brick	1	2.80
Unit 8	10 to 20	button, shell	1	0.20
Unit 8	10 to 20	creamware	4	6.80
Unit 8	10 to 20	curved glass, dk gr	3	5.00
Unit 8	10 to 20	diminutive sherd	1	1.30
Unit 8	10 to 20	earthenware unglazed	1	0.30
Unit 8	10 to 20	flat glass, clear	1	1.40
Unit 8	10 to 20	gaudy dutch	1	0.20
Unit 8	10 to 20	iron, unidentified	13	70.10
Unit 8	10 to 20	kaolin pipe	1	2.00
Unit 8	10 to 20	majolica	1	2.90
Unit 8	10 to 20	pearlware	5	14.40
Unit 8	10 to 20	pearlware hand painted	1	1.50
Unit 8	10 to 20	pearlware transfer print	4	3.60
Unit 8	10 to 20	porcelain	1	2.40
Unit 8	10 to 20	slipware	1	0.70
Unit 8	10 to 20	square nail, iron	20	75.70
Unit 8	10 to 20	St. Johns check stamped	1	5.20
Unit 8	10 to 20	St. Johns indeterminate	1	2.80
Unit 8	10 to 20	stoneware salt glazed	1	30.90
Unit 8	10 to 20	strap, iron	2	23.90
Unit 8	10 to 20	whiteware	4	15.30
Unit 8	10 to 20	whiteware transfer print	1	4.50
Unit 8	20 to 30	annular ware	1	0.80
Unit 8	20 to 30	annular ware wormy finger painted	1	1.30
Unit 8	20 to 30	bottle glass, dk gr	1	18.50
Unit 8	20 to 30	brick	3	9.00
Unit 8	20 to 30	creamware	3	5.50
Unit 8	20 to 30	creamware hand painted	1	6.20
Unit 8	20 to 30	curved glass, dk gr	1	0.90
Unit 8	20 to 30	El Morro unglazed	1	1.70
Unit 8	20 to 30	iron, unidentified	6	34.40
Unit 8	20 to 30	pearlware	3	1.70
Unit 8	20 to 30	pearlware transfer print	2	4.90
Unit 8	20 to 30	refined earthenware painted	1	0.70
Unit 8	20 to 30	sand tempered punctate	1	2.90
Unit 8	20 to 30	porcelain	1	0.10

Unit/Feature	Depth Open	Artifact Description	Count	Weight
Unit 8	20 to 30	square nail, iron	4	16.10
Unit 8	20 to 30	St. Johns plain	1	5.30
Unit 8	20 to 30	whiteware	4	5.00
Unit 8	20 to 30	yellow ware painted	1	0.70
Unit 8	30 to 40	creamware	1	0.30
Unit 8	30 to 40	diminutive sherd	3	2.80
Unit 8	30 to 40	iron, unidentified	2	0.90
Unit 8	30 to 40	sand tempered plain	12	201.20
Unit 8	30 to 40	St. Johns plain	1	2.90
Unit 8	30 to 40	whelk recepticle	1	118.50
Unit 8	30 to 40	whiteware	2	1.00
Feature 01		bone modified UID	1	0.60
Feature 01		bottle glass, clear	1	222.90
Feature 01		bottle glass, dk gr	1	27.50
Feature 01		brick	6	148.50
Feature 01		creamware	4	17.30
Feature 01		curved glass	1	1.20
Feature 01		curved glass, clear	1	3.50
Feature 01		diminutive sherd	1	1.10
Feature 01		diminutive sherd	1	2.10
Feature 01		flat glass, clear	1	0.30
Feature 01		iron, unidentified	31	282.10
Feature 01		kaolin pipe	1	3.80
Feature 01		mortar, cement	1	0.60
Feature 01		pearlware	2	8.30
Feature 01		pearlware	1	4.30
Feature 01		pearlware shell-edged	1	3.00
Feature 01		pearlware transfer print	1	0.30
Feature 01		Reyware	1	0.50
Feature 01		sand tempered plain	2	11.80
Feature 01		square nail, iron	7	26.90
Feature 01		square nail, iron	8	21.90
Feature 01		square nail, iron	2	8.90
Feature 01		St. Johns plain	2	5.00
Feature 01		Swift Creek complicated stamped	1	11.90
Feature 01		utensil, bone	1	25.60
Feature 01		whiteware	1	0.30
Feature 01		whiteware	1	0.90
Feature 01		whiteware painted	1	1.60
Feature 01		annular ware	1	0.90
Feature 01		annular ware	2	3.60
Feature 01		annular ware	2	2.20
Feature 01		bottle glass, dk gr	1	5.20
Feature 01		brick	1	2.30
Feature 01		brick	4	4.80
Feature 01		button, bone	1	0.50
Feature 01		creamware	1	8.00
Feature 01		curved glass, clear	2	8.30



Unit/Feature	Depth Open	Artifact Description	Count	Weight
Feature 01		curved glass, dk gr patinated	1	1.50
Feature 01		diminutive sherd	1	2.50
Feature 01		flat glass, clear	1	0.80
Feature 01		gaudy dutch	1	0.50
Feature 01		iron, unidentified	1	1.50
Feature 01		iron, unidentified	1	3.10
Feature 01		iron, unidentified	5	24.20
Feature 01		iron, unidentified	4	45.30
Feature 01		iron, unidentified	1	4.80
Feature 01		iron, unidentified	7	10.60
Feature 01		iron, unidentified	3	20.90
Feature 01		knife, iron	1	31.00
Feature 01		pearlware	1	4.80
Feature 01		pearlware	9	16.70
Feature 01		pearlware shell-edged	1	4.70
Feature 01		pearlware transfer print	2	6.50
Feature 01		pearlware transfer print	1	0.70
Feature 01		porcelain	1	2.50
Feature 01		sand tempered	5	35.80
Feature 01		sand tempered plain	1	5.00
Feature 01		square nail, iron	1	0.90
Feature 01		square nail, iron	1	5.40
Feature 01		square nail, iron	6	56.70
Feature 01		square nail, iron	6	32.10
Feature 01		square nail, iron	1	3.90
Feature 01		St. Johns indeterminate	1	1.80
Feature 01		St. Johns plain	1	12.70
Feature 01		St. Johns plain	1	30.60
Feature 01		whiteware	3	6.30
Feature 05		sand tempered plain	1	19.30
Feature 05		porcelain	1	0.10
Feature 05		St. Johns plain	1	1.10
Feature 10		pearlware	1	0.90
Feature 10		St. Johns check stamped	1	7.40
Feature 12		square nail, iron	1	8.90
Feature 13		iron, unidentified	1	3.80
Feature 15		brick	1	4.40
Feature 15		iron, unidentified	1	1.50
Feature 16		diminutive sherd	1	1.40
Feature 16		Reyware	1	2.40
Feature 16		sand tempered	1	16.10
Feature 16		sand tempered plain	1	11.10
Feature 16		sand tempered plain	3	14.30
Feature 25		sand tempered plain	1	8.70
Feature 25		St. Johns indeterminate	1	1.70
Feature 35		iron, unidentified	1	1.20
Feature 41		iron, unidentified	4	52.30
Feature 41		square nail, iron	4	24.30

Unit/Feature	Depth Open	Artifact Description	Count	Weight
Feature 41		whiteware	1	5.80
Feature 42		diminutive sherd	1	0.20
Feature 42		square nail, iron	1	5.40
Feature 43		bottle glass, amethyst	1	6.60
Feature 43		bottle glass, dk gr	1	2.60
Feature 43		creamware	1	1.30
Feature 43		diminutive sherd	1	1.70
Feature 43		earthenware transfer print	1	0.70
Feature 43		iron, unidentified	1	0.80
Feature 43		iron, unidentified	2	2.10
Feature 43		slipware	1	1.50
Feature 43		square nail, iron	1	1.10
Feature 43		whiteware	1	0.70
Feature 43		whiteware hand painted	1	1.40
Feature 47		sand tempered plain	1	2.10
Feature 47		St. Johns plain	1	6.00
Feature 47		St. Johns plain	1	67.70
Feature 48		annular ware	1	2.90
Feature 48		bottle glass, dk gr	1	2.40
Feature 51		brick	1	0.10
Feature 51		creamware	2	3.80
Feature 51		diminutive sherd	9	5.70
Feature 51		iron, unidentified	3	4.40
Feature 51		square nail, iron	2	7.60
Feature 51		St. Johns plain	1	7.50
Feature 52		square nail, iron	2	9.60
Feature 53		American slipware	1	9.00
Feature 53		iron, unidentified	1	0.40
Feature 56		iron, unidentified	5	2.50
Feature 58		diminutive sherd	2	1.40
Feature 58		iron, unidentified	9	35.90
Feature 58		iron, unidentified	1	167.40
Feature 58		spike	1	38.50
Feature 64		brick	2	1.10
Feature 64		pearlware	1	1.30
Feature 72		iron, unidentified	1	3.00
Feature 79		nail	1	1.90
Feature 89		iron, unidentified	1	0.70
Feature 89		lightning whelk	2	1203.40